

Currents

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Megwa Ezhiweback



Mndoo-Gizis (Spirit Moon)
March 2009 Vol. 6 Issue 3



Primary Election results

The 2009 primary election for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians came to a close on Friday the 13th at the Community Center. Approximately 40 members were there to witness the vote count conducted by the Election Board under the watchful eyes of candidates and Tribal Police.



ALSO IN THIS
PUBLICATION

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OGEMA ROMANELLI

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SUBMISSIONS

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GOVERNANCE

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**Spring
Membership Meeting**
April 18, 2009
See April Currnets
for more details!

Office of Public
Affairs
Contact Information
1-888-723-8288
1-231-398-6840

Here are the candidates who are moving forward to the General Election. Their vote count is included in parentheses

Tribal Council At Large: Michael Ceplina (191), Virgil Johnson (252) and Elaine Porter (151).

Tribal Council 9 County: Kimberly Alexander (88), Bill Anderson (82), Harold Battice II (86), Austen Brauker (77), Candace Chapman (136), Pamela Medahko (116), Steve Parsons (198), Janine Sam (150), Melissa Zelenak (75).

Tribal Council Outlying: Norbert Kelsey (128), Sandy Lempke-Mezeske (85) and Rick Sprague Big Thunder (76).

Office of Tribal Court Chief Judge: Daniel Bailey (374), John Gregory Kelsey (259) and Jonnie Jay Sam (321).
The other races for Court positions and Election Board did not participate in the primary.

The General Election is scheduled for April 24th. In this issue of the Currents, candidates were given the opportunity to submit a 400 word article. They will have another opportunity in the April edition which will be delivered well before the election. The articles appear beginning on page 4.



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
375 River Street
Manistee, Michigan 49660

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Manistee, MI

Aanii,

It is my understanding that our Tribal ID cards will now be accepted as a means of identification by the State of Michigan. I want to thank Diane Lonn and those that have been working on getting this passed. Miigwetch.

Also, the recent decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court and by Judge Leon, will be helpful as we continue to pursue a second site in the Muskegon area. The Supreme Court recently decided not to hear the case against the Gun Lake Tribe, clearing the way for that Tribe to open a casino in Wayland Michigan. Because of legal battles, the tribe has been trying to pursue a casino for approximately 10 years. Congratulations to them.

Our Spring Membership Meeting is scheduled for April 18th at the Little River Casino Resort Event Center.

The Community Center is on target for completion this spring, however, it is believed that it will be over budget by the time of completion. I believe there are several factors for this. I hope to have a report on this at the Membership Meeting and hope the project is nearing completion by that time as well.

As you know, our Government employees have had their hours reduced from 40 hours a week to 32 hours in an effort to stay within the budget and save anyone from having to be laid off. Tribal Council, at their January 7th Meeting,

decided to take a voluntary 20% cut temporarily as well. At the January 21st Meeting, I also had it placed on the agenda to have Council reduce my salary, but it would have violated our Constitution for them to do the reduction, and it was voted down. I have since decided to reimburse the tribe through personal checks.

I want to thank Jessica Burger for her work in getting the Self Governance compact finalized between Little River band of Ottawa Indians and the Department of Health and Human Services. This agreement is permanent structuring document and creates baseline funding of approximately \$1.4 per year for the next three years. Along with Jessica, Myra Munson assisted the Tribe with negotiations, and Lloyd Miller of DHS deserves credit for getting discussions moving forward. There is more on the following pages.

There have been a variety of "forums" that have been held over the past couple of months. While there has been some confusion over the planning of these. I think it is important to know that none of the three branches of government, Executive, Legislative or Judicial, are responsible for putting these on. Many were initiated by concerned tribal people or the candidates themselves.

By the time you read this, I believe the results of the primary election will have been announced. I want to thank all of the candidates for stepping forward to put their names in the hat for the vari-

ous positions. I would like to caution members about some of the negative campaigning going on. There are some documents that are being distributed about candidates backgrounds and it appears that only certain candidates are being targeted while others are not.

At this writing, the Tribal Council has talked of releasing to the membership, the forensic audit that was done at the request of the Gaming Commission on the Casino. I also hope to have a report of corrective measures responding to the audit, released as well.

I am anxiously for spring to arrive this year as I have had enough snow and cold for a while. Bamapii



Boxing Commissioner Indicted

According to a report by Mark Vestor

(boxingvester@gmail.com) in the *Grand Rapids Press* January 28th, former tribal boxing commissioner Shane Crampton is charged with extortion and wire fraud in connection with his dealings with Detroit promotional company Clip Boxing Inc. and founder, Carlos Llinas. Federal prosecutors charged Crampton with making a payment demand of \$1,000, and in return he promising to book his fight cards at the Little River Casino and Resort.

Crampton denies the charges, though he did admit to the FBI that he accepted a \$1,000 Western Union wire payment from Llinas, but says the fee was for networking Llinas with other tribes nationwide. He faces 30-years in prison.

"I never had any power and everyone knew that," Crampton said on Tuesday. "Everything got signed and approved by the tribal council. He had to present to them and get their approval. I couldn't even make a recommendation."

Llinas staged at least two cards at the Manistee casino, including one that was televised on Showtime with a tripleheader that featured Chazz Witherspoon, Ronald Hearn and James McGirt Jr. January 29th, the tribal Office of Public Affairs issued the following statement: "The indictment yesterday of a former commission member involved with boxing at the Little River Casino Resort almost 2 years ago brings some closure to a difficult issue. Through it all, the casino resort and tribal government have stood behind the rule of law and supported the prosecution of those who break it."

The Tribal Ogema, Larry Romanelli, reported that it was the tribe, "who initiated the investigation several years ago after observing potential irregularities." Romanelli added that, "Based upon the investigation, the tribe asked that boxing at the resort be formally investigated and we are all thankful that the investigation is reaching a conclusion."

Professional and amateur boxing at the resort spanned approximately one year and was very popular with both area residents and promoters. Numerous individuals from the area were involved with boxing and performed admirably in their various duties. Boxing events at the resort were an experiment on the part of the resort and tribe as they gauged event popularity and potential profitability with their audiences."

Cutbacks at LRBOI Government (updated)

Hours, Programs and Salaries Cut

MSN reported December 15th, 2008 that, "The Nevada Gaming Control Board reported last week that revenue at the state's casinos fell by 22 percent in October, compared with the same month last year. It was the 10th straight monthly decline — and the biggest ever. The story was even worse on the Las Vegas Strip, where the October take was down by 26 percent." This downturn has hit gaming across the nation, the state of Michigan and the Little River Casino Resort as well. The reduced income from the casino and increased pressure brought by the Per Cap program approved last year has caused serious changes to the governmental budget.

After multiple revisions of the Casino's 2009 Operating Budget and following difficult decisions resulting in layoffs at the Casino, as mentioned in last months Currents, the Casino 2009 Revenue projection was finalized in mid-December. The result was the need to cut \$ 4.2 million from the Tribal Government budget. After exploring all options with staff, Ogema Romanelli was able to determine the best possible solution leading to decreased service hours but no decrease in direct benefits provided to Tribal members in the many programs run by Tribal Government. Programs in Education, Members Assistance and Contract Health Services, among others, were left intact. Unfortunately, Government employees shouldered the burden of decreased revenue. In addition to a 20% reduction in paid work hours, employees will not receive merit or cost of living increases during 2009 and will not receive a 3%

tribal match to their 401k contributions. Cutbacks were also made in Stipends, Small Equipment, Training and Travel and Capital Outlay budgets.

At the last meeting of Tribal Council, the 2009 Budget was approved by Resolution #08-1217-435. In this resolution, Council made some additional cuts to Tribal Activities; Sponsorships and Donations; Advertising; some Licenses, Fees and Permits; Books and Reference Materials; Small Equipment and Furniture; some phones and pagers; Uniforms and some Stipends.

Increases were authorized by Council for some other Stipends; some Legal Licenses, Fees & Permits; Capital Outlay (in Commerce) and increased travel for the Prosecutors Office. In addition, Council increased funding to pay for costs associated with expenses incurred by the Tribe related to litigation for Kern Valley and increased funding for License, Fees & Permits to pay for the annual license of two Certified Public Accountants for the Government Business & Accounting Office. See the website at www.lrboi.com to view the full Resolution.

Tribal government offices are officially operating under a new schedule which began January 5th with offices open from Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Some key departments will maintain different schedules to keep providing services to members. Those schedules will be announced as they are established.

Editor's note. This expanded article on the Government Budget cuts was scheduled to run in the previous edition.)

NEWS FROM THE DESK OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL RECORDER FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY-2009

Are we sick of the snow yet!

Weekly listing of work sessions are held by Tribal Council for the Tribal Council agenda, the purpose is to work out issues prior to being voted on at the Tribal Council Meeting on Wednesdays. All Work sessions are open to tribal members. Work Shops are listed below on the calendar for the month of June.

Workshops that Tribal Council did have for the month of August and September:

- ❑ **Commerce Commission:** Discuss items that they are discussing to help with council and the Ogema to bring forward more revenue to the tribe.
- ❑ **Agenda Review:** Going over agenda items for Wednesday's Tribal Council Meeting.
- ❑ **Regalia Class:** Meeting with the Cultural Preservation Department on starting up some more regalia classes.
- ❑ **Commission Ordinance:** Attorney recommending changes with their stipend to coincide with the budget changes.
- ❑ **Personnel Manual Changes:** Attorney recommending changes to coincide with the budget changes for the 32 hours a week for employees.
- ❑ **Timeclocks:** Training for inputting your daily activity for Tribal Council Employee's.
- ❑ **Employment Division of Tribal Court:** Issue with the Union and changes.
- ❑ **Agenda Review:** Going over agenda items for Wednesday's Tribal Council Meeting.
- ❑ **Gross Gaming Tax Revenue Ordinance:** Attorney recommends changes and posts the changes for 30 day comment period.
- ❑ **Utility Department:** Need to move forward with some items that they needed to due from 2008 and it was a carryover in their budget.
- ❑ **Outstanding Budget Issues:** Discussion on certain items in the 2009 budget and since the budget was passed temporarily there still needs to be changes for this 2009 budget.
- ❑ **Gross Gaming Revenue Tax:** Attorney recommendation to post for 30 day comment of changes they have brought forward to Tribal Council.
- ❑ **Gaming Commission Ordinance:** Gaming Commission is bringing changes

- ❑ forward for Tribal Council to adopt.
- ❑ **Committees Ordinance:** Purposed bringing forward for a 30 day comment period.
- ❑ **Constitutional Proposal the elders are bringing forward:** Discussion on the changes the elders have worked on for quite some time and want council to look at the changes they are purposing.
- ❑ **Renewing contracts for certain positions in the Tribal Government:** Discussing on whether to renew some contracts that are going to run out this Year.
- ❑ **BIA Self Determination:**
- ❑ **Commissions:** What commission do we really need for the Tribal Government?
- ❑ **Enrollment Commission:** Need to discuss with council one extra meeting for the month due to an Enrollment Hearing.
- ❑ **Elder Meals:** Tribe received a grant to get the elders meals this was a meeting on how to move forward with the grant.
- ❑ **Wells Fargo:** To reassure the tribe that our money is safe as of now in the local bank.

Agenda Review: Is the Monday before a scheduled tribal council meeting which is scheduled at 1:15 P.M.
Just a reminder that tribal council has their meetings every other week so the minutes will only be for every other week when we have a meeting so all of 2008 open session minutes are all caught up now the tribal council Executive secretary is now working on 2009 which leaves us with only the month of January that the girls are working on currently.

**Tribal Council Contact
Information page 22**

LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR 2009

Regular Tribal Council Meetings have been established for every other Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Departmental Reports and Minutes of various entities of the Tribe will be accepted during the second meeting of each month.

ALL REGULAR MEETINGS SHALL BE HELD AT THE LITTLE RIVER BAND DOME ROOM

Wed, January 7	Wed, September 2
Wed, January 21	Wed, September 16
Wed, February 4	Wed, September 30
Wed, February 18	Wed, October 14
Wed, March 4	Wed, October 28
Wed, March 18	Wed., November 4
Wed, April 1	Wed., November 18
Wed, April 15	Wed., December 2
Wed, April 29	Wed., December 16
Wed, May 13	
Wed, May 27	
Wed, June 10	
Wed, June 24	
Wed, July 8	
Wed, July 22	
Wed, August 5	
Wed, August 19	

Thank you,
Kimberly Alexander
Tribal Council Recorder



Government Closes for the following Holidays

- *New Years Day
- *Treaty Recognition Day
- *Memorial Day
- *Independence Day
- *Labor Day
- *Reaffirmation Day (September 21st)
- *Veteran's Day
- *Thanksgiving Day
- *Friday after Thanksgiving Day
- *Christmas Eve Day (Half Day)
- *Christmas Day

Some areas of the government will be continue to be available on these holidays, such as Public Safety.

Currents will inform you of any scheduled closings of the Government facilities.

It's always a good idea to call first if you are not sure.
Just use the toll-free number of 888.723.8288.



Attention all Tribal Members

If you are interested in joining any of the following Commissions or Committees please submit a letter of interest to the Ogema's office with a copy going to the Tribal Council.

- 2 seats – Commerce Commission
- 2 seats – Gaming Commission
- 1 seat - Health Commission
- 2 seats – Binojeuk



Each candidate for the General Election was given the opportunity to submit up to a 400 word article for this issue of the Currents. They were also given the option of rerunning comments from the previous newspaper. Their comments appear in the following pages. Candidates are also being given the opportunity to provide another 400 word article to run in the April edition of the Currents. It is due to the newspaper offices by noon on March 17th. These comments will appear in the April edition of the paper which is scheduled to arrive prior to the General Election on April 24th

There will be a Candidate Forum on March 28th at 2 p.m. at the Three Fires Conference Center.

Notice from the Election Board

The ballots for the General Election will be mailed out on March 27, 2009. The Election Board and Automated Election Services will be obtaining the address lists in early March. Your ballot will be sent to the mailing address on file with the Enrollment Office.

If you do not receive your ballot by April 7, 2009, contact the Election Board at (231) 398-6852. You may leave a message on the voice mail, or use one of the contact numbers on the outgoing message.

The Election Board voice mail is checked daily.

Remember, the Election Board will not be able to assist you if you do not leave your name and contact information.

The General Election will be held on April 24, 2009 at the Little River Community Center.

In-person voting will be available at the Community Center from 10 am until 6 pm on April 24, 2009.

Thank you,
Little River Election Board

Office of Tribal Council – At-Large

Michael J. Ceplina



January Submission

Bozhoo,
My name is Michael Ceplina. I am 51 years old, married with 6 children. I'm son of Robert and Lorraine (Pete) Ceplina. Grandson of Joseph Pete and Josephine (Antoine)

Pete. I worked for a number of years in Wisconsin. I moved to Manistee when took a job at the casino as a security officer. I then went to work for the tribe at the wastewater plant for over 4 years.

I'm also a Natural Resource Commissioner on my second term where I've helped to ensure treaty rights for our members. Currently I work at the casino as a surveillance operator. Some of the things I will work on if elected:

Propose a resolution that has the Ogema and council work 40 hours a week.

Work with the elders to see how we can help them out.

Have more programs for our children to encourage them to stay in school and get a higher education.

Have more reporting done on the financial affairs of the tribe.

Look at more ways to help our members that reside outside of the nine county area.

Work in getting renewable resources for the tribe so we can make money.

Miigwetch,
Michael J. Ceplina

Michael J. Ceplina
VoteforMike@hotmail.com

February Submission

Boozhoo

Here are some of the things that I would like to work on if elected to tribal council.

Listen to tribal citizens. I believe that the tribal council position isn't a part time position. I would work at least 40 hours a week. And be available after work if needed to listen to tribal citizens. I think we need to change the constitution that should be a priority. For all of council. I would work on getting incentive programs for our youth-education is our future.

Consider investments into renewable energy such as windmills and solar power to save the tribe money and make money. I would also look into having the Manistee National Forest put into trust for the tribe.

I believe this is our land and always was. We need signs up letting people know they are entering the reservation. We need more reporting of financials from current investments, the construction company, trading post, casino and any future investments. I would also look into all the minerals that are being taken from the reservation such as gas, oil, salt, etc.

If you want a change vote for me and I'll work for all tribal citizens.

Advertisements

Elaine J. Porter



Please forgive me if I should offend anyone, as that is not my intention. Following is a partial list of things I bring to the office: Education, training in Tribal Law, reading and understanding financial information, experience and Traditional values; each are very important to all of us, as it helps determine who we are. As your representative I will begin by coming to your area as often as possible to listen to you. I cannot represent you very well if I don't know what it is that you need or what you think. I truly believe that

by listening to what all of our Elders are saying, not just the few vocal ones, would be a good guide line and a good thing. We need to support our youth through these trying times. Their education, health and welfare are of utmost importance. Cultural training should be of high importance, following the Seven Grandfathers: Truth, Love, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, Respect, and Bravery. I do not lie, steal, use drugs and I have not been convicted of any crime or felony. While working for a cause greater than myself, I will not promise more than I can deliver. I have nothing to personally gain but to do a good job. I have an honest, open and fair mind. I can take a balanced approach to all issues, working for the good of the Tribe and all Tribal members. As a team player, I can work with others and respect all ideas. I will take the time to fully represent all tribal members. Traditional values need to be brought back such as smudging before Council meetings. Youth involved with government and Elders, these things will help them be aware of Tribal issues and prepare them for

the future leadership of the Tribe. I can be reached by phone at (231) 826-3505 or cell (231) 357-8672 or by email at aankwadquay@yahoo.com. Miigwetch, Elaine Porter.

Virgil J. Johnson

Membership:



Aanni

First of all I want to say Miigwetch for your support in the Primary Election. In the first half of this campaign I met many new faces in our tribe and with these new faces was accompanied with good ideas. However one issue kept surfacing within the tribe itself. Whether it was in Wisconsin, Muskegon or Manistee they are all wondering what you are going to do for me. The following issues we need to focus on for you and our **At Large**

- All tribal citizens have a voice in election all council members.
- High priority for Muskegon Casino.
- A second Trading Post in the Muskegon area.
- Casino reform in operational guidelines.
- Sun set clause to enrollment

To move forward on these issues, there must be a close relationship between the Legislative branch, Executive branch of government and the **At Large Membership**. As tribal government moves forward on these issues we need to make sure they are align with the **At Large Memberships** needs. This means getting out meeting the **At large Membership** on regular bases and discussing these issues with them.

There also needs to be legislative rules and regulations that will insure honest, economical reform with minimal risk in our enterprises. Don't confuse this with micro management. You can clearly see what's happening in the stock market because of lack of oversight (regulations) we need council members with

experience to handle these challenges and I'm that person. Just a reminder, my web site is www.virgilforcouncil.com and you may call me on my toll free number: 877-398-2840. The web site will give you better insight of my experiences along with my values.

Thank you in advance for your support and I'm looking forward to working for you.

Miigwetch

Virgil Johnson

Melissa L. Pope



Melissa L. Pope is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Michigan. She has served in the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Court as a Special Chief Justice and as a Visiting Judge of the trial court. Melissa has been involved with the American Indian Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan since shortly after the Section was established. She has served twice as the Chair and is currently the Secretary-Treasurer, as well as the Editor of the Section's newsletter.

Melissa is an Adjunct Faculty at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law where she teaches the American Indian Law class and the practicum. In the winter term of 2008, her American Indian Law Practicum students worked with the LRBOI Tribal Court to assist the Court with drafting rules of evidence and jury procedures. She previously taught the Federal Indian Law class and the seminar at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Melissa is the former staff attorney at the Women's Survival Center of Oakland County where she represented indigent victims of domestic violence in family law matters. She currently works with victims of hate crimes at the Triangle Foundation.

Office of Tribal Court Chief Judge

Daniel T. Bailey



To begin with, I would like to thank all those who showed their support and confidence in me by their vote for me in our primary election. I would also like the opportunity to show those who have not yet voted or decided who to vote for in the General Election by seeing who I am at www.myspace.com/votebailey.

In recent times some information has been passed onto me that I feel

is important to share. Within the past few weeks I've been contacted by different tribal members and asked my opinions on fellow candidates, they offered comments that I felt were negative. I responded to them and now publicly, that I feel each of the candidates are nice people and that I will not participate in negative talk or mud-slinging. I think we've all had enough of that during the recent presidential elections.

We are one tribe and need to stand united, even during elections. We as a people are given an opportunity to make a choice on who will best represent our tribe and its future. Don't take this task lightly. During these economic struggles we need representatives that see beyond their own financial benefits and make the choices that are best for our people. I am one of those representatives who will put my money where my mouth is. For further details go to www.myspace.com/votebailey.

I, Daniel Bailey am a man of integrity and honesty. The past two issues of Currents have given you a glimpse of what I have done for you in the past, I have served this tribe, my people, with great honor and pride. My past involvement will provide you with voting confidence that if chosen; my service

to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians will continue to be done with the greatest respect for you and our Tribe. As many already know, I, Daniel Bailey, am a full blooded Tribal Elder and feel it is my duty to serve you while honoring this great Tribe.

I have been your Chief Judge for approximately 10 years.

If something is not broken, why fix it? When something works, why change it?

With True Sincerity,

Daniel T. Bailey
Chief Judge
Tribal Court

John Gregory Kelsey



JOHN KELSEY: THE ONLY CANDIDATE FOR CHIEF JUDGE
WITH A LAW DEGREE.

Bringing change to our tribal courts is very important to John Kelsey. Many of our current cases would never be heard in mainstream, non-tribal courts because of their ridiculousness. Under our current system, meritless cases are brought to settle personal scores, thus ruining the reputations of others. John has defended tribal members who've

been on that short end of the stick. For him to run for chief judge, he gave up his tribal membership -- and per cap -- because his opponent's poorly drafted constitution prevents young tribal members with law degrees from running. John's sense of integrity led him to forgo money for the sake of reforming LRBOI's courts for all tribal members. A few ideas include putting court opinions online to ensure transparency in the courts and creating a viable citation system. John plans to adhere to the law in a way that is currently lacking in our current system rife with off-the-cuff rulings by our current Chief Judge.

His degrees come from the Ivy league Dartmouth College and the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Visit vote4kelsey.wordpress.com for more information including

John's resume, work samples and proposed ideas.

John can also be reached at 216-509-3642

or jgk@alum.dartmouth.edu.

Jonnie J. Sam



My name is Jonnie Jay Sam, known to most as Jay Sam (tribal citizen #0145).

I would like to say thank you all the citizens of the Tribe for voting in this election.

Voting is the way you, the citizens, take responsibility for your government.

Please forgive my reiterating in this message and its brevity. I have served the Tribe for a long time.

I have served as Ogema, and accept the responsibility for what occurred then (circa 2002) as I believe responsibility is a key to good government. I am a college graduate (Central Michigan University, Bachelors of Science in Political Science: American Government/Administration) and the Michiagn Judicial Institue's Judges' training. I have served as the LRBOI Associate Judge, the first and to date only full time judge for over four years. During this time I also served as Court Administrator, drafted first draft of the Court Rules using the Mich. Court Rules, Federal Court Rules and the Mich. Indian Judicial Assoc. model rules as the base. The final rules were amended and adopted by entire Judiciary, including two very experienced Judges/Attorneys.

I am a former member of the Michigan Indian Judicial Association, National American Indian Court Judges Association during my tenure at Court. Developed Court's use of Westlaw, Findlaw and use of the American Indian Law Reporter as opinion registration site.

I am hoping you find that I have the intelligence and the experience, having done the job before, to provide a fair, just and responsible Court for my fellow citizens.

In closing, I say again - Please vote. Thank you.

Kimberly M. Alexander

My name is Kimberly Alexander. I am currently the nine-county representative to the tribal council.

During my term as your representative there are many accomplishments that I am proud of. These include legislation that I sponsored which has allowed tribal elders to obtain supplemental health insurance. I worked with tribal council to bring the per-cap plan to the membership.

During my term I have strived to be a steward of the tribes finances as well as its natural resources. I have pushed for greater accountability of the tribes money through third party audits, and strict budgeting that includes all the departments and the casino submitting modified budgets which show cuts in operating capital. I support continued tribal sovereignty through self regulating members hunting, fishing, and gathering rights without state interference.

If given the opportunity to continue serving the membership I would like to bring forward a prescription drug plan for all tribal citizens and human resources legislation which eliminates bias and favoritism in the hiring of tribal members.

I look forward to your vote as your candidate for tribal council of The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. If re-elected, I will continue to serve the citizens with dedication.

Bill Anderson

First and foremost, I would like to thank all of the people who voted for me in the primary election. I truly appreciate your support.

Communication – Internet web sites, e-mails, etc. are useful tools but do not reach the entire membership. Call me old fashioned, I believe our newspaper is still the best tool for information to reach everybody. However, there are limitations of what can and cannot be printed. Such as, court rulings, past

and present business ventures. There needs to be legislation to establish public information guidelines.

Constitution- The membership should have full input on this issue. I think there are solvable solutions to this document without re-inventing the wheel. In the meantime, we need to assure that the one we have is followed.

Muskegon Property- Yes, I am for gaming in Muskegon. We need to establish a casino in that region to be competitive. However, until that comes to fruition, there could be uses for that property such as, fairs, festivals, summer concerts, etc. to offset property upkeep and taxes.

Experience- Since opening, my restaurant in downtown Manistee two years ago, several other restaurants and retail shops have come and gone in this volatile economy. I have survived by using business skills that I have developed with over 20 years of management experience. Not to mention a strong work ethic and financial responsibility.

Attendance- I believe as Council members, we

set an example for tribal employees and for our tribal children. I will work a full week and attend all assigned liaison meetings.

Work Environment- Most importantly for our tribe to move forward with critical issues, we need a professional work atmosphere. No personal agendas, grudges, or chips on our shoulders. We need ability to work cooperatively with each other even if we disagree.

I'd like to close this article with a quote from retired general Colon Powell. "Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate and doubt, to offer a solution everybody can understand." Your vote can change the future of our tribe. Thank- you
Phone# 231-398-0435

Harold Battice Jr.



Harold J Battice II
Tribal Council, 9-County
e-mail: hbat-
tice@hotmail.com

Many know who I am and what my accomplishments are. I hold an Associate of Arts Degree and an Associate of Science Degree from Muskegon Community College where I majored in business. And, attended

the Seidman School of Business at Grand Valley State University majoring in Finance before coming to the Little River Casino. I worked for the Oceana County Inter-tribal Council and participated with the Michigan Indian Employment & Training Services. I worked at the casino for 8 1/2 years as a Security Officer and RV Park/Hotel Supervisor. I had the opportunity to participate and complete the Leadership Development Program at the casino. I also attended many of the workshops for leadership training that was offered during the years I was employed at the casino. Many challenges face the tribe constantly and competent individuals dedicated to the preservation of our culture must make difficult decisions. Our leaders must possess the ability to manage tribal finances and address critical issues without jeopardizing the tribe's future. We must strengthen our economy and depend less on support from the Federal and State Governments. Now, financial sovereignty is more important than ever with the problems of the world economies. We must invest wisely and cut wasteful spending by our tribal government and our enterprises! Our leaders need to preserve the future by first satisfying the needs of the membership today.

A strong leader will know the right road to take today for a better tomorrow. I believe that everyone should be responsible for his or her actions, and should be held accountable for those actions. We must all work together for a stronger future. A vote for me is a vote for the membership. Miigwech!

Austen J. Brauker



I urge all Tribal members who want to see our government make a move in a positive direction to vote for Austen Brauker when you receive your ballot. I am dedicated to our tribe and have been fighting for the rights of Indian people since the eighties. I have learned during my time that change has to come by working from within the system, not by being oppositional, not by attacking others, but by working with other Council members to get things done. I have learned to put personal issues

aside and act for the greater good of all Tribal members, without harboring my own personal agendas. Everyone in our Tribe will be treated with the same respect. I will act honestly and fairly to equally represent all Tribal members, without letting any personal differences get in the way. The tribe will come first in every vote that I will cast, the whole tribe, not greed, not favoritism and not negative politics. I work as a Peacemaker and will use those skills to help solve problems and lead our tribe down a path where we can stop the infighting and internal disputes that have weakened us. I am a problem solver, a creative thinker, a doer who can think logically to aid our Tribe and help us all. I have the skills to work with people and the ability to communicate effectively with others. I can clearly offer my opinions without butting heads and causing more conflict. I share my ideas in an articulate and positive manner. I believe strongly that our leadership needs to be as open as possible to the membership they represent and explain what they are doing, why they are voting a certain way

and what kind of strategic plan they have for the direction of our Tribal future. I have the leadership abilities that are required in a Council member. I will stand up for your needs based on what the people want, not on what I personally want. I will be a true representative of the membership and act with honor, dignity, intelligence, bravery and truth as my tools to accomplish your wishes. Those of you who do not know me can look at articles I have written over the past year in Currents to get an idea of how I think and the way I believe. Our great Nation will be strong again. Chi-Miigwetch
Austen J. Brauker
Peacemaking/Probation Officer

Pamela S. Medahko



From My Corner of the Sky

There are a myriad of issues that affect Anishinaabek in Indian Country. Issues that require leaders to make tough choices, even though easier ones are available. When we work together, we accomplish goals.

Greed, Power, Avarice, and Jealousy. Not exactly ideal qualities of intrinsic worth. Ancestral teachings have taught us that each ethnic group has had challenging and sometimes devastating consequences because of their need to live by these things which continue to

adversely affect their communities.

The Crab Bucket Story is told amongst our people If you have a bucket filled with crabs, the goal for the crab, of course, is to get out of the bucket. What often happens in Indian country is that once one crab pushes through to the top, another crab reaches up with his claws and starts pulling that one down. In Indian communities this prevents meaningful change from occurring.

Tribal leaders say deep divisions sometimes create barriers to smooth operation of Tribal government.

One of the ways to jump start Tribal economy is through sustainable renewable energy. This would be a means of promoting both economic prosperity and environmental protection. Wind Turbines is a concept that was considered a few years back. I feel we should seriously consider going in this direction. New Innovative ideas to economic diversification is imperative in order to effectively care for our people.

To accomplish our goals, our balance needs to be restored with the Executive Branch. It is when we are NOT focused, that those with ill intent take advantage of the discord within our Tribe. It has happened in the past and will unfortunately happen in the future. Let us not forget the portentous former CFO's and others who have

cost us dearly. History has taught us that people are only moral in terms of their own values.

Let us learn from our lessons, look ahead with hope and once again take our place as a leader amongst Indian nations. The key to hope is to plan, act and think with pragmatism. Hope is always anchored to my being. I would be lost without it.

Coming together is a beginning.

Keeping together is progress. Working together is called success.

Megwetch for your vote in the primaries. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

Please Visit

: <http://www.myspace.com/mycornerofthesky>

Candace Chapman



We've all witnessed the harm caused by independent agendas and I respectfully encourage everyone to:

- personally speak to candidates to address your concerns
- carefully consider the content/source of information received and
- evaluate the feasibility of campaign promises.

We are in a very critical position now and the decisions we face in the next few years are crucial to the future prosperity of our Nation. Having a Tribal Council who understands the importance of working together is only the first step toward building a solid foundation. Each branch of government is important to achieving stability and proactive leadership is essential to moving our Tribe forward.

Working together to create viable legislation to address accountability, communication and governmental transparency are all great ideas, however one must possess the skill needed to see them through from concept, to creation and further to implementation. I have that skill. I also know the significance of teamwork and what it means to work hard to get the job done. My experience in creating effective policies complements my ability to identify, assess and

effectively address the needs of our people. Accurate information and creating viable avenues of securing Tribal member input is also important to the progress of our Tribe.

Thorough knowledge of how to acquire stability through the creation of responsible legislation is a good start to rebuilding trust between our Members and those who serve them. Man, woman or child, the decisions made affect us all, regardless of where we choose to reside. I have a genuine understanding of the efforts needed to achieve positive results and I recognize how crucial a collaborative approach is to our success.

I am of strong mind and spirit. As your representative, I promise never to forget the importance of accountability, the action of a Tribal Councilor speaks to the integrity of our government. This position is one of service and the honor of representing all of our people is something I will never take for granted. Let us work together to embrace whatever the future holds. Your vote is your voice. Thank you for your consideration.

We've made it! Great thanks to all of you who helped get me through the primary. I am honored by your support. As the conclusion of our election approaches, we face even greater challenges. It's imperative to filter through political propaganda to maintain our focus on the critical issues.

Steve Parsons



First, I would like to thank those who voted for me during the primary election. Your support and encouragement has meant a great deal to me and I do appreciate it. As I have stated in previous articles, the current economic crisis presents unique and serious challenges for our Tribe and our elected leadership. Tough times, such as these, call for renewed and vigorous commitment and hard work. The decisions we make and the priorities we set now will establish the direction for our Tribe for years to come. After all, it is because

of the hard work and sacrifices of previous generations that we are in this place today. As these previous generations accomplished what others believed 'impossible', we also have been given the same opportunity today. I am confident that in working together, supporting one another and laying our self-interests aside, we also can accomplish remarkable things. Coming together—elected officials, employees and fellow members alike—to work for the betterment of our Tribe requires the willingness to forego political agendas, roll up our sleeves and get to work. If I am fortunate enough to be re-elected, I will continue to work openly and candidly with my fellow Councilors and the Ogema to find solutions to these challenges and continue to move our Tribe forward in a good way. This requires us to examine and address a number of critical issues. We must honestly and seriously examine the organizational structures of the Tribal Government and Casino operations and make whatever changes are necessary to maximize their effectiveness and efficiency. The recent decline in casino revenues and gaming revenue distribution to the Tribe make this our number one priority. Given this situation, our per capita

payment rate must remain at its current level for the foreseeable future. We must renew our commitment to economic diversification by continuing to develop and support Tribal enterprises, such as our two most recent successful Tribal businesses—Muschigon Construction Company and the Little River Trading Post. Businesses like these provide additional revenue to the Tribe, and more importantly, training and employment for Tribal members. We must work to continue and strengthen programs that provide vital services to our membership, including: affordable housing, education, employment & training, health care, and family services, to name a few. In the spirit of cooperation and progress, I humbly ask for your vote. Miigwetch.

Janine M. Sam



Kchi-Miigwetch, for your trust in me! I thank you for exercising your voice; by most of the names that have moved on to the General Election, the Voters of Little River Band have SPOKEN about YOUR expectations for the future. There are those who have tried to fool you with anonymous mailings, there are those who have tried to confuse you with negative phrases. There are even some who have tried to use divisiveness—pitting members against each other—in an effort to

win election. You, the Voters, see through all of that. You want candidates of substance, candidates who are Leaders. You know that I am honest, have one misdemeanor for dog at large, and I tell the truth, even if it hurts! Manistee Public School recently announced that they are investing in education by purchasing LAPTOPS for their students—a program that I helped to create at LRBOI nearly a decade ago. VISION! Placing technology in the hands of students, to prepare them for the future. In fact, almost every single education program that we have today, I was privileged to be a part of the Team that envisioned those programs, got them passed, and I wasn't even elected to Council yet!

It is time to change some of our Laws and enact new Laws, to make Government work better for its Members. I've already written Laws and Resolutions. It is time to refocus on employment of Members first. Who will you trust to manage your multi-million dollar financing on your enterprises? I was part of the negotiation team for our original casino expansion project, saving millions in fees and interest, reducing overall debt. Who will you trust to negotiate compacts and other contracts that LRBOI needs to succeed? I have already

been a part of those processes; I have the experience needed by your Government to protect your Tribe, to protect Your interests. The value that is important to me: Tribal First. Not just words, but in reality, making our employment opportunities, business opportunities and benefits work for our people. I know how to create programs for the benefit of all, create order out of financial chaos, and moved forward initiatives that helped all of the Members. I can work with anyone, I have worked for everyone. Your vote for me in April means a vote for Membership and Experience. In a Good Way, Janine M. Sam

Melissa Zelenak



We need a Council to account for their work history, ethical choices and moral standards. We need one with experience, education and cultural values. We need a Council that honors our heritage through Talking Circles and smudging at important gatherings, especially Council meetings. We need a Council that knows what Honesty, Humility, Truth, Respect, Bravery, Wisdom and Love will do for our Tribe. We must have leaders to lead by good example, not who lead to embarrassment and countless court cases.

We don't need elected officials with highly questionable backgrounds or

criminal records.

We don't need a Council person who:

- doesn't provide their work activity to members
- was in attempted recall(s)
- was fired from their tribal job
- was involved in shaky financial dealings
- was part of very expensive failures like the Kern Valley Project, the Boxing Program, the Fishing Program and the Diversity Network

We must have leaders that safeguard our finances.

We don't need to pay almost a HALF A MILLION dollars in wages each year to Council. From December to February there was one Council meeting each month. Who wouldn't love a job where you don't report to anyone about your work and gross mistakes are hid in Closed Session meetings?

We need new Council people who can immediately help solve our problems. Council is not a four year training program for the ineffective. We must have officials who look to our best interests, culturally, socially, and economically. We don't need incompetents who make us look bad *repeatedly* with awful business decisions, poor representation and rumor spreading. We need a Council that earns respect. I'm campaigning to win but I'm also fighting to

make sure the ineffective aren't elected, or re-elected. We do not need more of the same. Please honor me with your vote if you want:

- Legislation to require Council meeting minutes are complete in 14 days, not months later...
- Consistent reporting of my work activity
- Secure investments and economic diversification
- Cultural awareness and practices honored
- Voting districts eliminated so ALL voters elect Council and the Manistee 500 theory disappears
- Increased funding for Education and Elders Programs
- Positive encouragement to help members get involved in tribal government

I will never forget who I work for, you.

Thank kindly for your continued support, God Bless our Tribe! Share your thoughts and vote at:

www.MelissaZforLRB.com
231-350-1778

Office of Tribal Council -- Outlying

Sandy Lempke - Mezeske



Hello,

First, I would like to send a very heartfelt Thank You to all who voted for me in the Primary Election for the Outlying Tribal Council seat. Secondly, I want to address a letter that was passed around in January by an unknown person. The information about me was NOT correct. The TRUTH is that I was not fired from the casino; it was considered a voluntary separation. They offered me a severance package to walk away quietly and I took it because there was no other option. In the

documents that I signed, I was advised not to disclose the specifics of the situation and if I did, I would be sued. The other bit of misinformation was that I received HUGE bonuses from the casino. I know there were a few employees that actually received HUGE bonuses. I, like many others, received the average bonus of any supervisor; \$1,940.06 in 2006 and \$2,003.04 in 2007. Here are a few of the issues that I believe need to be addressed:

- Strategic Plan completed with membership input.
- Policy review adding consequences for NOT following the policies, i.e. Tribal Preference Policy, Hiring Policy, Elected Official Ethics Ordinance, etc.
- Establish a cooperative working relationship with the Ogema and staff with a review on whose job it is, constitutionally, to make certain decisions and take certain actions, i.e. training/travel decisions for staff, program development, handling of complaints, committees/commissions, etc.
- Form an Elder's Council with specific roles and responsibilities.

- Improve communication to the membership and identify exactly the information that the membership wants/needs to hear.

• Prepare a plan of action to repair the image of the Little River Band. In closing, I want to let you know that I plan to run a clean campaign. I will not be discussing the arrests and convictions of either of my opponents as those are their stories to tell, not mine. My email address is sandy.for.change@gmail.com. You can email me questions and I will forward the answers to an email list that continues to grow. I also have a BlogSpot established that will allow you to comment on my posts <http://sandyforchange.blogspot.com/> My home number is 231-477-5636 or cell 231-239-1808. Please consider me as your next Tribal Councilor. I care deeply for our Nation and want to help care for and protect it now and for future generations. Miigwetch,
Sandy Lempke-Mezeske

Rick Sprague Big Thunder



Why you should Vote for Rick Sprague Big Thunder.

A fresh voice with experience not recycled slogans and unfairly biased opinions

We need Transparent Tribal Government so that we as citizens can be better informed as citizens/members Minutes that are up to date and made available to all citizens in a timely manner,

This is possible and achievable, why can't our Gov do this now?

This is not the only reason we need change, we need to change the current leadership trend that presented to us their changes for our constitution they would also try to take away the right to vote on each amendment that may be bundled together as current councils submission in the September 2008 Currents would do.

They would:

Eliminate the Ogema's position; Restrict the opportunity to run for office to one hundred miles from the Gov office, Change the blood quantum that would divide families in the same household.

They also believe that it's ok to eliminate our youngest citizens, those under 18 from inclusion in a Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP). I support the three branches form of Gov because this helps ensure that we have a check and balance to our system of Government.

I am 48 years old and have served on several organizations councils/boards where I worked within the Public Department of Health and Social Services and Indian Health Service.

I have nearly 3 years experience in casino work and have firsthand experience of what works.

I will promote fully fair and open preference employment

I fully support a process that will open the records to past closed session minutes not withhold them.

Enrollment records and requirements need to be the same for all applicants not biased opinions.

Now that Tribal Government has reduced the overall budget we can proceed on new spending with caution not waste.

As elected council from outlying district I believe that information is greatly wanted and needed we should not have to badger council for this requirement.

Rick Sprague #2175

msg: 616 304-6309

8499 E.M-71 lot A

or littleriverdad@yahoo.com

Durand Mi 48429.

Norbert J. Kelsey



I am an outspoken advocate for residents outside the often-privileged service area. This makes me unpopular in Manistee, but I continue to hold my beliefs. There are areas our tribe fails and I won't hold back saying so. For this, I have faced excruciating recrimination, being accused of terrible misdeeds. I've been chastised for allegedly sharing closed session information with you. It's easy to hide behind the cloak of closed session.

We need transparency so you see what officials do. Some items must be closed but more should be public. Secrecy breeds deceit. I encourage openness in government, and will take the rebukes of those who decry that too many members have too much information. That's the only way it works! I'll continue to do everything in my power to see you are informed. This is not a secret society or private party- this is government by representation. I cannot represent you if you don't know the issues. I vote against measures which exclude outlying members. I support constitutional amendment for all of us to vote for all elected positions so the loud voices of the few that aren't continually allowed to drown out the voices of many.

I vote against spending that will take hundreds of thousands of tribal dollars – our dollars-to provide minimal benefit to a select few. I ask- how have you benefited from hundreds of thousands spent constructing a shooting range for the bloated safety department? From thousands spent in feasibility studies for a pharmacy in Manistee? From faltered private business paid for with your money? I say they are programs we shouldn't support, positions we shouldn't fill, and jobs that aren't necessary. It isn't perfect, but if we can't

provide fairly to everyone, per capita seems the solution. I will fight for the 50% you voted for.

We cannot expect families to uproot, giving up livelihoods, homes, retirement, for low paying jobs here at our casino- just to receive services that have every right to expect wherever they live. But there are those who believe that. Seems the best jobs at our casino are reserved for members of families who think of themselves as the nucleus of our tribe anyway. That isn't fair and I will continue fighting to ensure that all have a voice and all have a share, no matter whom or where we are. Please consider voting for me. Thanks

Duane Battice



Aanii my fellow Little River tribal members,

My name is Duane Battice. I am a candidate for a seat on the Tribal Election Board. I have been married for 6 years and have 2 wonderful children. My son Dakota is 6 and my daughter Alleah is 2.

I have an Associate Degree in Computers for Business and also in computer Networking. I hope to continue expanding my knowledge. I have attended the Spring and Fall membership meetings for many years.

I have listened to the tribes issues. Through my dedication to the election board, I will try my hardest to shed more light on the issues at hand. Through this I hope to be a part of the resolution to the many issues that afflict our tribal members. One of the issues I speak of is the over expenditure of the tribes money. If elected, I will devote my time to the election board in order to strive to find places to trim the election board's budget appropriately.

I am an honest straight forward person. I do not intend to make promises I cannot keep. I am very devoted and detailed oriented. I feel I have the experience needed to maintain the standards expected by our tribe and give you the results that you are looking for.

Migwetch,

Duane Battice

Diane A. Lonn



Aanii

My name is Diane A. Lonn; I am running for a position on the Election Board. My Grandfather was James Koon and my Great Grandfathers were Joe Koon and Pete Espiew. I am married and have three children, as well as five active grandchildren, all girls.

I have worked as the Enrollment Officer for the tribe since 1993 when we only had three employees, in 1999, I moved to the casino and worked for the General Manager there, then in 2004, I returned to the tribe and the position of Enrollment Office. I am continuing my education, and will soon receive my Bachelors in Business Administration from Ferris.

Since 1993, I have been on various committees, Constitution, Election Board, Land Acquisition and Health Board. I have worked as a volunteer on the Pow Wows as well as the Children's Christmas Parties and other events.

I have integrity, experience and work ethics and would be an asset to the Election Board.

Diane A. Lonn

Berni Carlson



Aanii, My name is Berni Carlson. I am proud to be a member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. I currently hold the position of the Election Board Secretary. I am a nurse and have had a Licensed Group Child Care Business for the past 19 years. I reside in Muskegon with my husband and four beautiful children.

During the time I have been on the Election Board, the Board has reversed fines imposed on Tribal members from the 2004 Recall Petitions. The members who paid fines were reimbursed, and the Board removed the process of fining from the Regulations.

As we worked on the Regulations, the Board held two meetings to invite the Tribal members to voice their opinions, as well as holding our open meetings for the members to attend. We value what our members feel is important to continue to grow in a positive direction. We then used their suggestions to help create Regulations for our Tribe as a whole.

I have been honored to serve on the Little River Election Board for the past four years. My job on the Election Board is to uphold the honesty and integrity of this office. I have taken this job seriously and have provided, along with my Board Members a fair and honorable process to elect our very needed leaders.

We have currently been working on a voter registration process. We have certain electoral processes that need at least 30% of our registered voters to count as a valid election.

We recognize this and are working to let your voice be heard. I would like to finish with the Board, this process for our Tribe.

The office of Election Board is not a full time job, although our board has always been available at any time. We have returned calls in a timely manner to anyone who has called and left messages. Our personal home and cell numbers have always been on the Election Board answering machine.

My vision for the Election Board: finish the registration process, continue to provide the integrity and honesty of the Board for Our members, and to have a cohesive working relationship with our members and elected officials so we can continue to grow. We are all one. I ask for your vote would be honored to serve on the Little River Election Board. Sincerely, Berni Carlson

Advertisements

Alesia Condon



My name is Alesia Condon. I was born and raised in Muskegon. I have a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Michigan. I lived in Ann Arbor for 9 years before returning to the Muskegon area, where I currently reside with my husband and son.

For the last 4 years, I have had the honor of serving on the Little River Election Board. During that time, the Election Board has accomplished many things. The Board reversed

the fines levied against Tribal members from the 2004 Recall and reimbursed those Tribal Members who paid fines. The Board removed fines from the Regulations completely.

The Election Board Regulations were completely revised and written as one document. The language of the Regulations was written so all members could understand it. During the posting period, the Board held two public meetings to gather comments from Tribal members. It has always been important to me to receive ideas from the membership. I feel this is important in order to create Election Regulations that best serve the needs of the Tribe.

The Board is currently working on a voter registration process. I believe this process is crucial to the Tribe, since there are a number of electoral processes that require participation of at least 30% of the registered voters to be a valid election.

Though the office of Election Board is not a full time position, I and the rest of the Board members have made ourselves available to the

membership on a full time basis by providing our own personal contact numbers on the office voicemail. That is the commitment I have made to the Tribe and, if re-elected, it is a commitment I will continue to make for the future of our Tribe.

Thank you,
Alesia Condon

Marcella Leusby

Marcella Leusby
7435 North Skookum Road
Luther, Michigan 49656
leusbymarcella@hotmail.com

My mother Alice Pete Moore raised me on the principle that in order to gain respect you have to give respect. Some on the campaign train seemed to have forgotten this. By the choices we make in our lives reflect on who we are and where we come from. I plan on using my teachings to reach others, to dedicate myself to our people, to give our tribe complete loyalty, to the best of my ability. Every tribal member is entitled to courtesy and to be informed. Honor is earned, not bought. By these choices I make I would appreciate your vote as Tribal Appellate Court Judge, Tribal Elder.

Elder Marcella M. Leusby

*Joseph J. LaPorte*January Submission

Aanii, my name is Joseph J. LaPorte and I am running for the Office of Appellate Judge, (Tribal Elder).

It has been my position throughout my entire career that no matter the name or affiliations everyone deserves to be treated with respect and as an equal with all rights afforded to them

My career has afforded me the opportunity to be a part of the judicial system for 34 years, from Tribal Court, State and Federal Court. I have had to make some tough decisions but, have never backed away from doing so. I have always done my research and evaluated each case in its entirety before reaching a decision.

If elected I will continue to adhere to that philosophy and assure those that file an appeal that a decision would be rendered without any undue delay.

M.....Joseph J. LaPorte

February Submission

To all

My education and 35 years experience in Law Enforcement lends some credibility regarding my ability to be your next Appellate Justice.

I have testified, prepared documents and understand the court system. I have been involved in both civil and criminal cases in Federal Court, State Court and Tribal Court.

Throughout my career I have lived by the philosophy that everyone should be treated equally and fairly no matter whom they are, what family they belong to, or their affiliations. Each person deserves the right to be heard and deserves the right to appeal a decision if they so desire.

Each appeal needs to be looked at very carefully with a fair and just decision being handed down based on the facts and merits of the case in an expeditious manner.

As a working Police officer I have always respected every citizen's Constitutional rights and will continue to do so after I am elected.

I will see to it that everyone is treated with respect and their cases handled in a very professional manner in a timely fashion.

Respectfully,
Joseph J. LaPorte



Martha Kase



I will be 62 on April 19th and according to the constitution I qualify to hold the elder seat in the appellate court. I believe our judicial system holds the elder seat with high respect to our traditions. There were times in my life when wisdom came from a child because I was open to hear their voice. After all, that's when I learned to love unconditionally. As a mother, auntie and grandma I've had children remind me I was never too old to love like they do. They have a lot of wisdom and that's why I will always hear their voices.

As far back as I can remember I was told if someone older than myself needed a place to sit I was to give them my seat. I am now almost 62 years old and I find myself closer to the front of the food line. When we were at fishing camp I was told don't play with the fire: "you're going to get burned!" I played with it anyway. I sure learned to respect fire after getting burnt. I know now that there are many things in this world that can burn me if I don't give proper respect and care to them. I remember fire the most because it can keep me warm, give me light and a hot meal but I also learned real quick that it could destroy me.

As a counselor for the past fifteen years I have been passing along these gifts so others could be free. I know today where it all came from. It's beyond my understanding how it works but I know it does and I am grateful.

I know it's hard to vote for someone you don't know so I thought I would share with you on a more personal level of who I am. I know I will bring honor and dignity to our courts so please vote me Martha Kase

I have put my own life in jeopardy protecting loved ones more than once. I didn't know where the courage and bravery came from and it even scared me. Other times I was so weak and broken that I was carried until I could walk again. I was given the courage and the bravery I needed to heal. It can be a painful journey confronting the truth but well worth the freedom.

Office of Election Board

Nancy Kelsey



Nancy Kelsey, 26, is a proud Anishinaabe kwe. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Nancy always had an interest in serving others. From being a regular church lector as a child to founding a church youth group in high school and volunteering with the elderly, she has had a firm belief that it is every person's duty to serve others. While at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb.,

Nancy led service trips throughout the country to locations including two Indian reservations. From freshman to senior years, she was an officer in the student Native American Association among other organizations. She is also the recipient of Creighton's distinguished Outstanding Student Leader award in 2004, which is also when she graduated with a B.A. in journalism. She went on to work at the largest newspaper in South Dakota called the Sioux Falls Argus Leader and simultaneously mentored a youth in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program. After about a year, Nancy went on to join the AmeriCorps volunteer program teaching Lakota high schoolers English and journalism at Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. She was in the program for two years before attending graduate school at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. She writes for Rezneta, a national Native news network, and Native American Public Telecommunications' website. She has also had six

reporting internships nationwide. She currently lives in Lincoln, Neb. and will complete the journalism M.A. program in 2009. In her free time she enjoys reading, writing, traveling, engaging in political discussions, volunteering and learning about other cultures. So please vote for Nancy Kelsey: ethical, independent-thinking, fair.

Bernedene Crampton MPA



A few years ago, I conducted a survey of some tribal members who attended a meeting.

According to the results of the survey, the top five priorities were: (1) money spent without Tribal member input; (2) Tribal member input into important decisions; (3) Elected officials should be elected by all of the people; (4) fewer Tribal council closed sessions; (5) elected officials should listen to the people.

I sent this to Tribal Council and the Ogema on February 27, 2008. Today, these are

still concerns. They have been concerns of the people for several years, in fact.

I have attended several meetings -- Council meetings; elders meetings; membership meetings and priorities remain the same.

All of these priorities concern effective communication between elected officials and the people they were elected to represent.

We need to know what major decisions are being decided which affect our future -- as an individual, as a Tribe.

Effective communication builds trust and a sense of belonging to greater entity, which is the Tribe.

It is ownership of the spoken word that results in responsibility of action.

For example, when you hear someone make a promise, do they have a plan of action that will facilitate the steps to make that promise come true to the best of their ability?

What about your input? Do you feel that you could approach an elected official and have your opinion taken seriously?

At one time, a person's word was good. Important transactions were sealed with a handshake. Sometimes, today, it appears that there aren't enough attorneys to draw up contracts to ensure that a person's promise is upheld.

This is all about good communication, trust, honor, integrity, accountability, responsibility, etc.

It appears that the computer is the most effective source of communication. It is fast. It is accurate.

When something is written, no one could say that is not what they said. It is a way of tracking who is keeping their promises to the people.

A problem is that not everyone has access to a computer. A solution could be that an inexpensive computer be available to Tribal members residing in the same home that has not received a computer through the educational programs. There has been a lot of money spent on things that had no benefit to anyone.

This would solve the communication problem and ensure Tribal privacy with user codes. Bernadene Crampton

The First Council Tree

Many generations ago, there lived a man whom The People named Kiiwezii. Each day, Kiiwezii walked through the village, but spoke to no one. Villagers wondered about this old man who went into the bush each day without talking to anyone. "He is a grumpy old man", they thought. But, Kiiwezii was not a grumpy old man. He was just so saddened since his wife walked on, that he quit talking to people.

Kiiwezii moved deep into the bush where he could be alone with his thoughts and memories. There he became good friends with the animals, and he would have long talks with them. This was a time long ago when animals spoke freely with the two legged who knew to listen. For many seasons, Kiiwezii and the forest animals shared everything and became very close friends.

One day, Kiiwezii decided he would take a walk out of the forest and into the nearby village. As he walked, a group of young boys recognized him as the grumpy old man from the forest. Being young boys, they laughed at the old man and taunted the smallest of them to speak to Kiiwezii. Wanting to prove himself to the older boys, the small one walked up behind Kiiwezii. But being afraid, he could not bring himself to walk beside the old man. Step by step he inched closer to Kiiwezii's side. "Come walk with me", Kiiwezii said to the boy. His voice was gentle, his eyes were kind, and this eased the boy's fear of the old man. The little

one hurried a step or two and finally walked in stride with Kiiwezii. Soon they were talking and laughing together as they walked. The older boys could not believe their eyes!

News spread through the village that Kiiwezii was not a grumpy old man. The people saw that he was truly a kind and caring man who had many things to share. They noticed that he especially enjoyed speaking with the Biinoogin and he told them of things that neither their mothers or fathers knew about. Even their Mishomis and Nikomis knew nothing about the stories Kiiwezii spoke of. Soon all the children of the village watched for Kiiwezii and begged him for more of his stories. Kiiwezii too looked forward to these meetings, and he delighted in telling them the stories and legends of days gone by. He knew from these good feelings that this must be what G'Chi Manidoo had planned for him. It was his purpose.

Tribal Council held a great respect for Kiiwezii and soon invited him to live in the village. He was given the most precious piece of land they had to offer. It was high on a knoll and overlooked the lodges of the village. On this property grew the sweetest berries and was abundant with medicine plants and wildlife. They built him a fine lodge and made him comfortable.

On one Winter's day, Kiiwezii told all the Biinoogin to sit in a circle. He told them that this would be the last time they would

meet, as he was going to walk on soon. But they should not move his lodge or his body once this happens, as he would be back one day. The next day, everyone waited for Kiiwezii to come out from his lodge. But he did not come out. It was as he told them. He had walked on.

Seasons passed and his lodge rotted in the weather. Soon all of the plants on the knoll were gone too and the land became barren. The People were sad. They missed the old man and yearned for his tales. They waited for Kiiwezii to return as he had promised. Then, after the first snow of the very next winter, the sun started to warm Mother Earth once again. The plants sprung forth and were a luscious green, and The People notice a small twig that had sprung up through the grassy knoll. They watched in amazement as the twig rose up and spread forth mighty branches. It was Kiiwezii, and he had come back as the first Oak tree ever to live on Mother Earth. He was now tall and strong.

The people of the village, in memory of their storyteller, held their meetings and told his stories under this tree. Kiiwezii, now a mighty oak, gave The People the first Council Tree on Mother Earth.

This story is very similar to "The First Storyteller" as told by Simon Otto.



The Members Assistance Department has received several requests for Income Tax Preparation Assistance and general information. The information below is to assist you in finding tax preparation services and to provide you important information about the Earned Income Tax Credit and updates to the Economic Stimulus Payments that were not claimed by eligible individuals.

In 2008 the Economic Stimulus Payments were sent to the eligible households who filed their 2007 tax return. The IRS has reported that 20 million low income seniors, disabled veterans and other with disabilities who are not required to file a tax return missed out on their \$300 payment. On September 7, 2008 the IRS announced that 4.3 million people in the group that had not filed tax returns who would otherwise be eligible to receive the Economic Stimulus Payment. These people were eligible to submit their tax returns up until October of 2008 for their payments. There is now a Recovery Rebate Credit available this year for individuals who did not claim the Economic Stimulus Payment or whose individual situation has since changed that made them ineligible to receive the maximum payment.

People who fall into the categories described below may be eligible for the recovery rebate credit this year:

- Individuals who did not receive an economic stimulus payment.
- Those who received less than the maximum economic stimulus payment in 2008 — \$600 per taxpayer; \$1,200 if married filing jointly — because their qualifying or gross income was either too high or too low.
- Families who gained an additional qualifying child in 2008.
- Individuals who could be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return in 2007, but who cannot be claimed as a dependent on another return in 2008.
- Individuals who did not have a valid Social Security number in 2007 but who did receive one in 2008.

The Recovery Rebate Credit can be claimed by filing form 1040 or 1040EZ. There are instructions contained on the forms to show you which lines to use. Unlike the Economic Stimulus Payment, the recovery rebate will be included in your tax refund for 2008 and not issued in a separate payment.

This information is also available at www.irs.gov and for more information about the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and free tax preparation sites in your area is located at www.michiganeic.org (Michigan Earned Income Credit Coalition). Other states <http://www.stateeitc.com> for Earned Income Credit.

Many workers and their families are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). There is both a federal EITC and a state EITC, so be sure to claim both! Your state credit is equal to 10 percent of your federal credit for Tax Year 2008. (It will increase to 20 percent next year, when you file your 2009 taxes.)

Important Earned Income Tax Credit Changes for 2008

Earned income amount is more. The maximum amount of income you can earn and still get the credit has increased. You may be able to take the credit if:

- You have more than one qualifying child and your earned income was less than \$38,646 (\$41,646 if married filing jointly),
- You have one qualifying child and your earned income was less than \$33,995 (\$36,995 if married filing jointly), or
- You do not have a qualifying child and your earned income was less than \$12,880 (\$15,880 if married filing jointly)

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

The VITA Program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income (generally, \$42,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Certified volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations. Most locations also offer free electronic filing. To locate the nearest VITA site, call 1-800-829-1040.

The Members Assistance Department has a listing of Michigan VITA sites. If you would like information on the sites available in Michigan please contact the Members Assistance Department at Toll Free 1-888-723-8288. We can also assist members residing outside of Michigan in finding VITA sites in their areas.

2009 VITA Checklist- What to Bring to Get Your Taxes Done

Identification/Social Security

- ID: Driver's License or State ID
- Proof of Social Security numbers for yourself, spouse and each dependent.

Proof of Income

- A copy of last year's return, if available
- Wages (all Forms W-2)
- Unemployment (Form 1099-G)
- Pension (Form 1099-R)
- Social Security (Form SSA-1099)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Letter from SSA
- Interest/Dividends (Form 1099-INT or 1099-DIV)
- DHS Assistance (DHS Annual Statement)
- Child Support (Child Support Annual Statement)
- Gambling/Lottery Winnings (Form W-2G)
- Miscellaneous Income (Form 1099-MISC)
- Notice 1378—Verification of Economic Stimulus Payment based on 2007 tax return

Proof of Expenses

- Medical or HMO premiums paid for self and/or family members
- Other: Dependent Care Expenses, Student Loan Interest, Tuition



For the Homestead Property Tax Credit

Homeowners: Bring the taxable value of your home and the summer and winter property taxes billed for the tax year. Bring a complete copy of your summer and winter property tax bills.

Renters: Your lease or rental contract and rent receipts for the tax year, plus your landlord's name and address.

For the Home Heating Credit

Bring the amount of your annual heating costs. Call your heat provider and ask for your heating costs for the period 11/01/2007 – 10/31/2008

For Direct Deposit

Bring your bank's (or credit union's) name, routing number and your account number.

Current Assistance Programs



Assistance Programs Approved for the FY2009 Program Budget

Programs are available in ALL STATES with the exception of the grant funded programs as noted in program listing. Programs are subject to available funding approved in the program year budget.

*Food Assistance Program

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing a dietary/food crisis. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. If household is receiving food assistance from another agency, it is the responsibility of the applicant to verify with agency to ensure accessing this program will not affect current benefits. Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household

- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG

- Amount of assistance: Up to \$300.00 per year; per household.

*Low Income Energy Assistance Program

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing an energy crisis. Assistance may be accessed once per year up to maximum amount not to exceed \$300. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household

- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG

- Received a shut off notice from utility vendor
- Received a denial from an outside agency for utility assistance

- Amount of assistance: Up to \$300.00 per year; per household.

*Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program

This program provides assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing a housing crisis. Assistance is available in all states. Assistance is subject to available funding. Program may be accessed once every two years. Eligibility Requirements:

- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household

- Household income does not exceed the income criteria; 175% of the FPIG

- Received a court ordered eviction or foreclosure notice

- Relocation to affordable housing

- Relocation due to loss of housing due to natural disaster

- Relocation due to substandard housing as documented by an inspector

- Received a denial from an outside agency for assistance

- Amount of assistance: Equivalent to one month's rent or mortgage payment not to exceed program maximum program amount available to

prevent or resolve housing crisis.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME- (Tribally funded programs) – Household income eligibility determination is based on three (3) months income prior to application. Applicant must provide proof of income for three months. Applicant and/or permanent household member shall complete the zero income form for periods within the three months where there is no income generated.

Income requirement includes all individuals in household age 18 and older.

Deductions from Gross Income: Child support paid out and unreimbursed medical bills.

*Program can be accessed by the Parent or Guardian of a member who has not reached the age of 18 or the legal guardian of a member who has been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to require legal guardian over the person and/or affairs, provided that the guardian is not the State of Michigan or other state government. This information must be on file with the Enrollment Department.

~THE FOLLOWING ARE GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO THE NINE COUNTY SERVICE AREAS OF MICHIGAN~

*LIHEAP

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Heat Source – Natural Gas, Propane, Electric, Coal, Fuel Oil and Wood)

This is a grant funded program to provide assistance to members who meet the eligibility requirements and are experiencing a heating crisis and live in the 9 county service areas in Michigan. (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)

- Amount of assistance varies according to individual income level, number of family members and available funding.

- Priority is given to Elders, Disabled and Single parents of young children.

- Eligible if someone in the household is receiving SSI benefits or are receiving Food Stamps

LIHEAP –

Cooling Assistance LIHEAP Component- Tribal Elders

This is a grant funded component of LIHEAP to provide assistance to Tribal Elders who meet the eligibility requirements, have a medical condition that require air conditioning during hot summer months, are experiencing an energy crisis due to additional energy burden to operate the cooling system and live in the 9 county service areas in Michigan. (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)

- Amount of assistance varies according to individual income level, number of family members and available funding.

- Medical condition and need for air conditioning must be certified and documented by medical professional.

- Assistance is available May 1, 2009 thru

September 30, 2009.

Well and Septic Program

The Well and Septic is an Indian Health Services (IHS) funded program. This program promotes health and safety for our tribal members by providing new or renovated sanitation facilities (Well and Septic). This program is available in the nine county service areas. Applicant must be:

- Enrolled member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- Reside in the nine county service areas (Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa and Wexford)
- Home must be the primary residence of applicant – (Reside in year around)
- Ownership of home/site must be in the tribal member's name.
- Project Site meets the I.H.S Eligibility Requirements.

A complete application and the supporting documents must be submitted in order to process assistance request in a timely manner. Supporting documents are listed on the cover page of the application.

Please contact the Members Assistance Department for program information and/or to request an application. Applications and Program Regulations are available online at www.lrbioi.com Members Assistance link

Other Services:

- Referral assistance in finding assistance organizations and/or agencies to assist with needs that are not readily available or provided through tribal programs.
- Interdepartmental Referral Services that provided interdepartmental coordination and collaboration with tribal service departments when assisting members.
- Per Capita Information & Distribution Coordination for payments.

Department Staff

Lee A. Iverson – Members Assistance Coordinator

Amber Moore – Intake Clerk

Linda Wissner – Intake Clerk

Office Hours Mon thru Thurs 8 am to 5 pm

Phone: 231-723-8288 or Toll Free 888-723-8288



Important Per Capita Direct Deposit Information

Form must be complete and current in its entirety. Do not leave any areas blank.

The member information must match the information on file with Enrollment Department. If your member information changes you must update this information with the Enrollment Department and re-submit a new direct deposit form with correct information.



If a person submits a new Direct Deposit Form to Accounting and the address listed does not match what is on file with the Enrollment Department, it will be not be processed. The person will be notified that until the address in Enrollment is up to date, per capita payments cannot be Direct Deposited or mailed out.



If the Enrollment Department has received (3) three undeliverable pieces of mail, the Enrollment Department will notify Accounting Department to cancel the direct deposit. Also any other tribal mailings will stop until the address is updated with Enrollment.



The automatic direct deposits will be cancelled at anytime if the member information on the direct deposit form **does not match** the information on file with the Enrollment Department.

All mailing information must match what is on file in the Enrollment Department.

The Direct Deposit form and Address Correction forms are available online at www.lrboi.com Members Assistance and Enrollment Department links.

If you would like a direct deposit form mailed to you or have questions about the direct deposit process please contact the Members Assistance Department by calling 888-723-8288.

The following Council may be contacted by
office phone, e-mail using the following information.
Main Office Number (231) 398-6845 or Toll Free 1-888-723-8288
Fax Number- (231) 398-0674
Office address: 375 River Street, Manistee, Michigan 49660

Don Koon- Council Speaker
231-398-6831
dkoon@lrboi.com
Elders Committee Liaison
Natural Resource Commission Liaison
NIGA(National Indian Gaming Association) Alternate
Loretta Beccarria
231-398-6834
lbeccarria@lrboi.com
Binojeeuk Commission Liaison
Health Commission Liaison
MIGA (National Indian Gaming Assoc) Alternate

Robert Hardenburgh
231-398-6832
rhardenburgh@lrboi.com
Gaming Commission Liaison
Housing Commission Liaison
NCIA (National Congress American Indians)

Stephen Parsons
231-398-6830
sparsons@lrboi.com
Gaming Commission Liaison
Commerce Commission Liaison
NCAI (National Congress American Indian) Delegate

Robert Whiteloon
231-398-6807
rwhiteloon@lrboi.com
Health Commission Liaison
NIGA (National Indian Gaming Assoc) Alternate
NCAI (National Congress American Indians)

Kimberly Alexander-
Council Recorder
231-398-6835
kmalexander@lrboi.com
Binojeeuk Commission Liaison

Shannon Crampton
231-398-6849
scrampton@lrboi.com
Commerce Commission Liaison
Legislative Liaison
Enrollment Commission Liaison

Norbert Kelsey
231-398-6828
nkelsey@lrboi.com
Elders Committee Liaison
NCAI (National Congress American Indians)

Patricia Ruiter
231-398-6869
pruiter@lrboi.com
Natural Resource Liaison
NIGA (National Indian Gaming Assoc) Alternate

Wabindato Mannequin



Cultural Corridor Display of Our History

One of the Mannequins featured in the Cultural Corridor at the Little River Casino Resort depicts one of our most famous tribal members, Marty Wabindato. Often seen peddling his bike around Manistee, Marty is a champion dancer, full blood Ottawa and a tribal elder. His mannequin was designed by Aunt Ruth and is worth quite a bit of money.

Often the head male dancer at Pow wows across the area, Marty has nine different sets of regalia and many other wonderful pieces of tribal history in his Indian Museum room. We are pleased to be able to share these photos with you and invite everyone to tour the Cultural Corridor and see pieces of our history

Currents Staff



Wabindato Mannequin



A wire service story announced January 21st, that with a one-line ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court has appeared to clear a major path toward construction of a casino in Wayland Township. This is just south of Grand Rapids, MI and is approximately three hours from Manistee.

The court declined to hear a long-running case filed by Michigan Gambling Opposition against the government and the tribe trying to build the casino. The Gun Lake Band of Pottawatomini Indians said that the decision clears the way for construction of the \$200 million Gun Lake Casino.

The tribe said it hopes to finalize a gaming compact with the state of Michigan and begin work on a Wayland Township casino shortly after getting final government approval of its request to take the former Ampro Products factory and surrounding land into trust off U.S. 131.

It was not clear how long that process might take or if additional legal challenges could further delay the process. "We are very happy with the Supreme Court's decision to reject MichGO's appeal," said D.K. Sprague, tribal chairman, in a written statement. "It is, however, bittersweet because the tribe and thousands of its supporters were irrevocably harmed by this lawsuit."

The suit dates back to 2005 as MichGO sued the U.S. government to halt plans to take the property for the planned casino into trust for the tribe. MichGO lost nearly every court battle, but succeeded in delaying the casino through a lengthy appeal process.

"We are obviously disappointed that the Supreme Court did not agree to hear the constitutional and statutory problems associated with the government's decision to take land in trust for the Gun Lake casino," lawyer John Bursch of Warner Norcross & Judd, which has represented MichGO, said in a written statement.

Bursch said another case challenging the government regarding the casino in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. -- along with the need for a state compact -- remain a road block for the tribe.

See the accompanying story for reaction from LRBOI.



(Artist rendering of the proposed Gun Lake Casino)

LRBOI reaction to Gun Lake decision

The leader of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians reacted to the announcement by the Supreme Court of the United States yesterday which denied a hearing on the case against the Gun Lake Band of Pottawatomini Indians brought by an anti-gaming group.

"We are pleased that a sister Michigan tribe has taken a major step forward towards completion of their dreams for economic development," said Ogema Larry Romanelli, the elected leader of the tribe based in Manistee. He added, "The decision by the Supreme Court of the United States to not hear the case involving the Gun Lake Band of Pottawatomini Indians removes a major obstacle to their progress and we wish them well."

The announcement yesterday clears another major hurdle for the Gun Lake Band that is planning to develop a casino south of Grand Rapids.

In speaking about the current economic situation in the state and the effect on the gaming industry, Ogema Romanelli said that, "As with our planned casino project in Muskegon, we fully expect to see a turn around in the economy that will allow all of us to be successful in the near future."

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians owns and operates the Little River Casino Resort in Manistee.
11 Cypress Street

Tribe contributes to Every Women's Place

Muskegon's Every Woman's Place was recently presented with a donation of supplies by the tribal government of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. The tribe, represented by caseworker Denise Anderson and Ogema Larry Romanelli, brought in a car load of supplies for the use of the center in their various programs which help women and youth in need.

Anderson and Romanelli made the presentation to Willie Wilson, Director of Youth Services and Rachel Glavich L.L.M.S.W. Director of Operations for Adult Services on behalf of the tribe. Anderson represents the Family Services Department of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians which serves the needs of all tribal members, regardless of tribal affiliation in a 9-county area from Muskegon County North through Manistee County.

Willie Wilson, head of the Webster House Youth Services said that the center serves approximately 9000 adults and youth during the year. Some of the courses include Anger Management, Counseling, Therapy, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and various life skills groups. He has been with the center for 6 years. 100 staffers including volunteers operate the center which is funded by grants and donations. Rachel Glavich, L.L.M.S.W. has been with the center for 12 years and is the Director of Operations for Adult Services. Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking make up the bulk of her department's work Glavich said that about 2,729 hotline calls come into the center each year. The center also offers residential facilities with an average residence of 20 women. They have approximately 100 non-residential visitors each month coming in for counseling and legal advocacy. About 400 people came through in 2008 just concerning legal advocacy. Tribal Ogema Larry Romanelli said that, "I'm very pleased that we can help to support this worthwhile effort that helps women and youth from around the Muskegon area. This (Muskegon) area is my home and I'm proud of tribal involvement in serving all of our residents."

The Family Services Department of the tribe is run by Director Bill Memberto, a career social services professional working primarily within the tribal nations.

Comments or thoughts.

Hello, we, the Health Commission would like to hear from you. Please take a moment to give us your thoughts/ideas of what you think of the clinic.

We want to know what youthink: the good and the bad.

Thank you

Please email to: healthcommission@lrboi.com

or mail to:

Health Commission

PO Box 119

Manistee, Mi 49660



The National Native Artist Exchange, a program of the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), provides support for Native artists residing in any of the 50 United States to travel to different regions of the country so that they may exchange artistic knowledge and skills with other Native artists. This fund is designed to encourage and assist American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian artists, and provides an opportunity for Native artists to teach, learn, and collaborate in traditional and/or contemporary Native art forms through travel from one region to another across the nation. How much funding is available and what will it support? Travel grants will be awarded up to \$1500 based on review of detailed requests and budgets appropriate to the scope of travel. Awards will be based on standard reimbursement rates for economy class travel. Funding may be used for travel expenses for Native artists to exchange with artists from other tribes/nations outside their own region to share, teach, and learn skills, do research and/or to develop collaborative projects. Examples of projects that the National Native Artist Exchange may support:

- A Lakota quill work artist would like to collaborate with a Micmac quill artist to create a piece to be included in a national exhibit.
- A Wampanoag storyteller would like to exchange and collaborate with an Alaskan Native storyteller to create an educational program as well as a cross cultural comparison of stories looking at contrasts and similarities region to region.

How will funding decisions be made?

Funding decisions will be based on the following eligibility criteria:

1. Artists involved demonstrate artistic skill, knowledge, accomplishment, and experience.
2. The project description is well defined and includes exchange between identified Native artists with planned objectives and specific purposes.
3. The project will have a lasting benefit to one or more Native communities, including exchange between Native communities to preserve and revive art forms and to encourage contemporary expression.
4. The project aligns with and enhances the overall purpose of Native Arts programming at NEFA which is to strengthen and build relationships between artists, increase the visibility of Native arts nationally and to bridge and network artists from across the United States. NOTE: Meeting application eligibility criteria does not guarantee a grant.

Application Details:

Applicants may receive one travel grant per fiscal year (June 1st through May 31st). Deadline for Submission: Requests must be received by NEFA no later than two calendar months prior to the departure date of the

proposed trip. Requests are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Funding decisions are made within one month of application receipt. If awarded, grant funds are paid by check to the applying artist, and will require appropriate reconciliation and documentation (receipts) upon return from travel. Release of funds to attend events, conferences, symposia, markets, etc., is contingent upon receipt of a confirmation such as an acceptance letter or registration verification. Failure to supply complete documentation of actual travel expenses will disqualify applicant from future awards. Please be aware that unused funds must be returned.



Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** ★★★★★



Co-sponsor for the camp is the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission as part of their youth development program.



Another co-sponsor is the Center for Native American Studies at Northern Michigan University.

This camp uses a model developed by the National Indian Youth Leadership Project (NIYLP). The primary objective of the NIYLP Camp is to address the issues of today's youth developing the skills needed to become functional, competent, independent adults and the leaders of tomorrow. The NIYLP is sponsoring a national camp in New Mexico.

Recognizing the importance of education in general, and leadership education in particular, this six-day summer program at Nesbit Lake in the Ottawa National Forest has been created to develop specific competencies and skills in students who will assume leadership roles in the future at the family, school, community, tribal and the national levels. The symbol of this program for American Indian students is the medicine wheel. It is important for any program to address the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of all participants. All activities will address these needs, and all students are expected to participate in each activity to the fullest. Each participant is also expected to follow all rules of their school or Indian education youth program and the camp program. Activities at the camp focus on group cooperation and communication, problem solving, leadership skills, self confidence, physical exercise, spiritual growth, social skills, and responsibility to self and community. Hands-on activities include a group obstacle course, high ropes course, work with staff of the GLIFWC, and cooperative games.

Students also help prepare, serve and clean up after the meals. They also learn and help with many of the cultural activities. Students also participate in a major service learning project and canoe trip.

Recreation will include swimming, games, canoeing, nature hikes and many other activities. Although this program is well structured, there is time for students to enjoy themselves as part of the group. There are no televisions, radios, CD players, cards or other distractions to the program.

In addition to students from the Nah Tah Wahsh/Hannahville Indian School, other Indian youth programs are invited to send up to four

participants and one adult to the camp. Applicants must currently be in grades five or six, complete a registration form, and have an adult complete a recommendation form. While grades in all classes are important, desire and potential in leadership is more important. Selection will be made on the basis of application and space available.

Students will be expected to participate fully in all activities of the camp. It is important to the success if the students that they take part in all group and individual activities for service, leadership, recreation, and cultural awareness to the best of their abilities. Students will live in the cabins of the Camp and eat most meals in the dining commons.

At all times students will be under the supervision of the camp staff, including Nah Tah Wahsh PSA staff and other adults and college students.

Staff leadership includes Rich Sgarlotti, camp director, projects coordinator at the Hannahville Indian School/Nah Tah Wahsh PSA; April Lindala, director of the Center for Native Studies at NMU; and Martin Reinhardt of the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

Parents of students accepted for the program will be required to sign a permission waiver for students to participate in all activities. There will also be a form to list any insurance carrier and to allow treatment in case of a medical emergency. These forms will be provided when the student is accepted to the program.

Students accepted will also receive a list of items to bring, contact information, and other permissions and list of camp rules.

Sample daily Schedule

7:00 – Rise and Shine

7:15 – Physical Activity, Circle, Solo Time, Journals

8:00 – Breakfast

9:00 – Team Building Activity

12:00 – Lun1:00 – Problem Solving Activity

3:30 – Leadership Development

5:00 – Dinner

6:00 – Group Work

7:00 – Recreation

9:00 – Snack

9:30 – Small Group Circle

10:00 – In Cabins

10:30 – Lights Out

For information or camper or staff applications, contact:

Richard Sgarlotti, Camp Director

Nah Tah Wahsh PSA

N14911 Hannahville B-1 Rd.

Wilson, MI 49896

(906) 466-2952 Ext: 124

rich.sgarlotti@hannahvilleschool.net



**National Indian Youth
Leadership Project
Michigan Section
Middle School Camp
June 21 – 26, 2009**

This summer camp program for forty middle school students (current grades 5-6) is sponsored by the Nah Tah Wahsh Public School Academy and funded by a grant through the Corporation for National and Community Service to the Hannahville Indian Community.

Designed By: Ryan & Max



Important information regarding the LRBOI Student Services Registration packets. Due to reduced staffing in the Education Department and a shortened work-week, LRBOI Student Services Registration packets were mailed out later this year than usual. Because of this fact the deadline which is normally around the 19th of February, has been extended to February 26th.

As you are reading this article, all LRBOI Student Services Registration packets have been mailed and should have been received by all tribal members between the ages of 3 and 19. If you have not already completed and returned your registration forms in the provided return envelope, please do so with a postmark of no later than February 26th. If you are reading this article after that date, there is still useful information and deadline dates that may help you, so please continue to read the article.

If your child is a tribal member, aged 3 to 19, and you have not received an LRBOI Student Services Registration packet- a bright yellow envelope containing the registration form, informational letter, calendar, etc., as well as a

postage paid return envelope, please contact the Education Department as soon as possible.

If your child is over the age of 19 but is still enrolled in high school (not adult education or continuing education, but regular high school) please contact us so that we can send you an application.

If you receive an application for a child who is pre-school aged, the child must be enrolled in and attending a pre-school now. Students who will be enrolling in pre-school are not yet eligible.

On March 5th, the Education Department will begin mailing receipt post cards (and sending email receipts to those who provide email addresses). If you do not receive a receipt postcard for EACH child by March 13th, contact the Education Department.

If you do not receive a postcard, or if you did not receive a registration form you need to contact us no later than Thursday, March 19, 2009. If we do not have a completed registration form, for ANY reason, and have not heard from you by this date, you have missed the deadline for receiving the School Clothing bank card issued

in July. There will be no email, letter or phone call reminders, and there will be no exceptions to this deadline date.

Please- if you have friends or relatives who may have moved within the last several weeks, or whom you suspect may not have received Student Services Packets, ask them to call the Education Department. We would greatly appreciate that you remind anyone you know who is eligible for this program to make sure they return the forms.

You can reach the Education Department by calling the toll free 888-723-8288 number and asking for Debra Davis or Yvonne Parsons or you may call us directly at 231-398-6724 and 231-398-6735 respectively.

The Education Department would like to offer recognition and encouragement to those tribal citizens who are dedicating their time and effort to the important pursuit of higher education. At the time of this writing, there are currently 152 tribal citizens who are attending college and have applied for and received assistance through the tribal education programs just since the beginning of 2009- and more applications are arriving daily. Collectively these students represent at least 31 universities and 33 community colleges ranging throughout 22 states. At least one of them is currently attending classes abroad, with a few others ready to do that in the coming semester. Their status ranges from undergraduate freshman working toward associate's degrees to graduate students working toward PhDs. Areas of study are wide-ranging and include an array of concentrations from general studies to business management to microbiology and much more. So congratulations to those students attending the following colleges and any others that we may have inadvertently missed! We applaud your efforts and recognize the commitment and sacrifice you are making to yourselves, your families, and this tribal community. Keep up the good work!

Alpena Community College (MI)
 Anne Arundel Community College (MD)
 Atlanta Metropolitan College (GA)
 Baker College of Muskegon (MI)*
 Bay Mills Community College (MI)*
 Black River Technical College (AR)
 Boston University (MA)
 Central Michigan University (MI)*
 Central New Mexico Community College (NM)
 City College of San Francisco (CA)
 Davenport (MI)
 Delta College (MI)
 DePaul University (IL)
 Dominican University (IL)

Eastern Michigan University (MI)
 Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (AZ)
 Ferris State University (MI)*
 Georgia State University (GA)
 Grand Rapids Community College (MI)*
 Grand Valley State University (MI)*
 Great Basin College (NV)
 Indiana University Northwest (IN)
 Kalamazoo Valley Community College (MI)*
 Kellogg Community College (MI)
 Kent State University (OH)
 Lake Michigan Community College (MI)
 Lansing Community College (MI)*
 Loraine County Community College (OH)
 Los Angeles Pierce College (CA)
 Loyola University (IL)
 Marquette University (IL)
 Michigan State University (MI)*
 Mid Michigan Community College (MI)*
 Milwaukee Area Technical College (WI)*
 Montcalm Community College (MI)*
 Mott Community College (MI)*
 Muskegon Community College (MI)*
 North Central Michigan College (MI)*
 Northern Michigan University (MI)

Northwest Technical College (MN)
 Northwestern Michigan College (MI)*
 Pima Community College (AZ)
 Pueblo Community College (CO)
 Ripon College (WI)
 Sage Colleges (NY)
 Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College (MI)

Saginaw Valley State University (MI)
 Sanford Brown (WI)
 Schoolcraft Community College (MI)
 Spokane Community College (WA)
 Stanford University (CA)
 Stark State College (OH)
 Texas Technical University (TX)
 University of Alaska-Anchorage (AK)
 University of California-Davis (CA)
 University of Maryland (MD)
 University of Michigan- Flint (MI)
 University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (MI)*
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln (NE)
 University of Nevada- Las Vegas (NV)
 Volunteer State Community College (TN)
 Washtenaw Community College (MI)
 Wayne State University (MI)
 West Shore Community College (MI)*
 Western Kentucky University (KY)

* 2 or more tribal citizens enrolled



Aanii,

Just a friendly reminder, We now have Tribal Logo wear in stock and all sizes. Polos, jackets, fleece wear, sweaters, hoodies, hats of all sizes styles and shapes, including the Camo line!!!! Come and check out whats new at the Trading Post and while your here grab your gas and a pop for the road. Guarantee you'll get a welcome, smile and a thanks for stoppin in.

See you soon!!!

Miiqwetch

Little River Trading Post

The city of Manistee sits prominently in the Southwest Corner of our tribal 1836 reservation lands and has a wonderful downtown with many historic buildings and interesting businesses. An effort of the Manistee Mayor, Cyndy Fuller, has been to develop the downtown to become an even nicer place that is a center of attraction and attention.

A major step this year towards that goal was achieved when the Mayor and a select group of business persons, government officials and private citizens worked to have Manistee designated as a 'Main Street' community. This designation allows a city to receive quite a bit of assistance in their efforts. "Efforts that would ordinarily cost a community upwards of \$300,000", commented the mayor.

Manistee became the 13th Michigan community to receive the designation and immediately worked with the Downtown



"DDA Director Travis Alden, Manistee Mayor Cyndy Fuller and Ogema Larry Romanelli meet to discuss downtown."

immediately worked with the Downtown Development Authority to move their plans and dreams forward. One key element was the hiring of a Director who could manage and move forward with the project.

Travis B. Alden, the new director, and the mayor visited with Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Ogema Larry Romanelli near the end of January.

The tribe has its government headquarters in downtown Manistee and it owns several other buildings along River Street. Alden, the Mayor and the Ogema met at the tribes' offices to discuss the future of Manistee under this Main Street program and to explore possible ways for the tribe to participate in the plans.



Indian Country Police Officer of the Year Award for the United States, First Nations, or Aboriginal Law Enforcement Officers

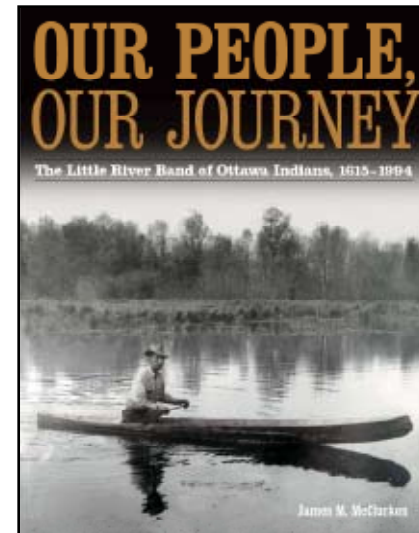


From left to right: Joseph LaPorte, director of public safety, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Michigan, and Indian Country Section chair; Officer Jay Wu, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Police Department, Scottsdale, Arizona; and James Molash, Standing Rock Sioux, Fort Yates, North Dakota, Officer of the Year Committee chair

Salt River Indian Community without regard for his personal safety and is credited with saving the lives of three female residents of the house, one of whom uses a wheelchair. 2009 applications due: August 15, 2009

For more information, visit the awards section on the IACP Web site, www.theiacp.org, or contact Elaine Deck, staff liaison, at the IACP, 515 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2357; by phone at 1-800-THE-IACP, extension 843; or via e-mail at decke@theiacp.org.

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It is the current plan to have copies of the book 'Our People, Our Journey the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, 1615 -1994' available for distribution at the Spring Membership Meeting. For those not at the meeting a mailer will be sent with the means to receive your free copy of the Tribe's history book."

The purpose of this award is to provide international recognition of police officers having demonstrated exceptional valor in service to the people of Indian Country, First Nations, or Aboriginal people, thereby exhibiting the highest traditions of the law enforcement profession. The award can recognize police officers who have, by conspicuous acts, clearly distinguished themselves by bravery, heroism, or outstanding courage and have placed the safety and welfare of the people of Indian Country, First Nations, or Aboriginal people above all other considerations. It can also recognize outstanding, exceptional service for completion of a task or assignment that went beyond the normal call of duty that served to enhance public safety, encourage community involvement, and/or demonstrated an effective use of the culture and traditions of indigenous people in crime prevention, community-oriented policing, or other projects.

The recipient of this year's award is Officer Jay Wu of the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community Police Department, Scottsdale, Arizona. On May 31, 2008, Officer Wu entered a burning home in the

This is a public notice to interested parties. The following deceased individuals were eligible to receive a per capita distribution and did not designate a beneficiary.

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Last Known Address:</u>	<u>Date first published:</u>
Jason Loomis Dixon	3103 Clayward Drive Flint, MI. 48506	
Raymond Paul Carey	2865 Valk Street Muskegon, MI. 49444	
Rodney James Genereaux	2706 Riley S.W. Wyoming, MI. 49509	
Lawerence Ray Medacco	1637 7th Street Muskegon, MI. 49441	
Kaileigh Ann Waskiewicz	18785 8th Avenue Conklin, MI. 49403	

Persons with an interest or claim on the per capita distributions of the above named individuals should contact the LRBOI Enrollment Department to file the appropriate paperwork. After publication for three months an auction will be brought in Tribal Court to determine who is lawfully entitled to claim payment. This process will be in place until a different process is adopted.



VOTER PROTECTION ALERT



On January 30, 2009 the Native Vote Michigan State Lead received a “Voter Protection Alert” from *Advancement Project* an organization based out of Washington, DC where their mission is:

“To develop, encourage, and widely disseminate innovative ideas, and pioneer models that inspire and mobilize a broad national racial justice movement to achieve universal opportunity and a just democracy!”

The Advancement Project is encouraging Michigan voters to check their voting status to make sure that their names have not been removed from the voter rolls because they were placed on a “cancellation countdown” list two years prior. In August 2006, Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land’s Bureau of Elections put together a list of names based upon the return of nonforwardable mail marked as undeliverable by the post office. Michigan voters—particularly those individuals who did not vote in the recent presidential election or in the preceding federal primary election—should check their voting status immediately. See steps below to determine status.

STEPS MICHIGAN VOTERS CAN TAKE TO VERIFY THEIR VOTING STATUS

Michigan voters who may be at risk of being purged from the rolls should take the following steps immediately:

- Voters should visit www.advancementproject.org/michiganvoters/ immediately and enter their names in the searchable database; voters who do not have Internet access may call toll free **877-547-6260**.
- If voters find their names listed, they should immediately visit their city, village, or township clerk, and complete a new voter registration form.
- Voters may also visit a Secretary of State Branch Office to complete a new form, or they may download a form at www.michigan.gov/vote and then mail or deliver it to their city or township clerk.
- Once voters have completed a new voter registration form, they should contact their city or township clerk within three weeks to make sure that their records have been updated and that they no longer appear on the cancellation countdown list.

(On January 22, 2009 – Detroit, Michigan) when the actual press release came out—you can visit www.advancementproject.org to read the entire release so you can review more details on this subject. Purging of voter rolls is nothing new and although it is unlawful, through research and from past experiences it leads to the conclusion that, it still happens. In all actuality once you have registered to vote you remain registered unless you move to a new address without re-registering. To protect our Native Voice and Native Power with “*the vote*” take the time to check your voting status for your protection and by all means remember that if you change your residency make sure you re-register to vote using one of the methods above!

Don’t get this voter registration information confused with Tribal voter regulations. For Tribal Election voter information you should visit the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians website at www.lrboi.com or call 231-723-8288, ext 6852.

(submitted by Native Vote)

Obama Inauguration thoughts

The inauguration of Barack Hussein Obama as the nations’ 44th President took place in Washington D.C. in January. This historic event was witnessed by 4 people from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, two tribal members and two government employees. Each was asked to provide their thoughts on the occasion. They are shown here.

Mary Velikan, Property Officer LRBOI: “We came from all over the United States and the world knowing that what happened that day determined how we would all survive the near future together. We left knowing each other a little better and aware that this little group of which we were part were willing to walk and work together under adverse situations to make things different. We were hopeful that these leaders assembled in front of us would be forthcoming with a good common direction so we could start the work at home knowing that others were doing the same.”

Jessica Burger, Tribal Health Director –“As a person that made my way to the Swearing-In Ceremony starting at 7:00 a.m. EST, seeing the masses of people riding the Metro train system and walking several blocks (miles) to the area around the Washington Monument, standing side by side to witness the ceremony on the ‘jumbotron’ and hear the words through loud speakers, I can only describe the people around me: Hopeful, Excited, Gracious to the neighbors standing next to them; the air was charged with *potential for the future*. I saw tears, smiles and laughter on faces of strangers that treated me like an old friend, yet hadn’t met me until that day at that moment. It was incredible! I witnessed a sea of hope in the people; many of them around me expressing their desire to be a part of something not only historical for the country, but ultimately, taking the emotion

back to be a part of something bigger for their communities. This was a common discussion amongst the group around me. To actually *feel* it, along with connection of that conviction to my own community is a very humbling experience.”

Dan Velikan, [Chief Internal Auditor](#). “In the three days in Washington with 2 million visitors crowding the city, with long lines everywhere and with the cold weather we never heard a complaint, argument or even a cross word. We met people from Nova Scotia and England, from New Jersey to Hawaii and everywhere in between. The overall sentiment was that of hope and positive change coming to the country. If that spirit of hope and change is carried home and spread; good things will happen.”



National Indian Health Board

Advocating on behalf of all Tribal Governments and American Indians/ Alaska Natives in thier efforts to provide quality health care.



Ms. Burger: Good morning. Thank you for allowing me to come here and represent the sovereign nations of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. I am very humble to be able to represent those tribal citizens and the leadership of the region, and especially in some of my remarks, my

own nation at this opportunity.

The citizens of our nations in Bemidji suffer from disease burdens at alarming rates in comparison to national averages and even in comparison to the averages across all of Indian country. We have significant incidence of cardiovascular disease, cancer, obesity, and, of course, complications related to diabetes and those related subsets.

We have also seen an increase in adolescent drug use and alcohol use, domestic violence, and suicidal ideology. And, of course, this was brought to bear at the national level when the tragedy of the Red Lake Nation occurred that really highlighted the severe state of our abilities to protect and reach our most valued asset, and that is the asset known as our children.

In the Bemidji area, we are funded at the lowest level of need of all of the Indian Health Service regions at 34 percent of our demonstrated level of need. I think that directly is representative to the rates of disease burden that we exhibit on a national level.

To frame three issues our of our region was very difficult, and I asked for input from the tribal leadership and health directors organizations. We have a unique position in Bemidji. We are not represented by an area board. We are represented by individual state boards or coalitions. And then we have a loosely conjoined Tribal Advisory Group that works closely with the area director, Kathleen Annette.

We have a very diverse population. We have service delivery units, three of them located at Indian Health Service Hospitals in Minnesota, but by and large, we are totally tribally owned and operated. Clinic access service sites. We do have some CHS-dependant sites, and we are trying at this point to figure out how we can further access CHEF funds, because in our region we are the lowest region with regard to accessing CHEF funds. I think last year we had nine cases that were able to access those funds for significant and extraordinary medical care.

I am going to attempt to frame these issues because they are really very unique to Bemidji, and the first one is eligibility and access as it reflects and relates to the use population, and particularly the user population count that is considered and published every three years.

Bemidji Area would favor a shift in user population to reflect the actual patient service loads. This would

require a change in the current policy from the non-duplicated individual person service that is taken once every three years to the actual service access we are providing at the sites. This could also be a mechanism that would establish the true level of health care access and the costs related to providing that care. Certainly if this were done, if we changed the policy from a non-duplicated count to an actual patient service count, we would discover the true underfunded levels at the national, regional, and local levels.

This is going to require an Indian Health Service and tribal partnership with regard to data collection, information technologies implementation, and especially as it relates to the electronic health record and telemedicine. An I do see and opportunity for infrastructure development that would be a part of an economic stimulus package at the tribal level.

It is time to bring the user population into the 21st century and to stop counting individual Indians in the United States, which is what the user population was a mechanism to do, and to bring it into a mechanism that counts level of need and care to provided at our respective reservations.

We would also like to advocate for a restructuring of the current medical priority system of contract health services to reflect preventative medicine. This would shift the burden of cost of paying for extraordinary care at the highest rates of service provision under a priority one life-or-limb payment structure, to reduce costs associated with medical case management, health promotion, disease prevention, which in the long term is going to cost less because we are going to improve the health status of the Indian People. And I believe that is the overall goal of not only all the nations represented at this table, but the Indian Health Service as well.

As we look at shifting that cost structure, this speaks directly to the current patient-centered chronic care model that is part of the Director of Indian Health Service's Chronic Care Initiative. We have to get rid of the archaic priority one life or limb system if we are really going to have an impact on the overall health status of our people.

Thirdly, we would like to advocate for the enhancement of Medicare-like rates for services rendered outside of the hospital based provision. This could be a mechanism that would create economies of scale for us as consumers of health care and would also increase and enhance access of our Indian people to those providers that they really need, especially when we look at the case management and health outcomes. That would provide us opportunities to detect significant disease process earlier which always results in reduced care to not only the patient but the system that is providing costs for those services.

When I came to this meeting, I asked for commentary in my Ogema, Larry Romanelli—we use the phrase "Ogema" in our nation because as Three Fires people, we don't necessarily have chairmen or chiefs. We have speakers for our respective nations,

and that is what that word means. He is the head man, the head speaker. He asked me to bring three items to the table, and the first item is the passage of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and advocacy from the Department to make sure that is a priority in the first 100 days.

As you know, in Michigan we are severely, severely, impacted by the lack of economic stimulus packages. He also asked that as the transition team looks toward economic stimulus, we don't discount the tribes in that process.

The third thing that he asked for was that if there was an opportunity to have any members of the transition team visit our nations in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan, to come and see what we do with the limited dollars that we receive, because we are, so many of us, for all intent and purposes, self-funded. We do not receive construction facility dollars. We are not even on the waiting lists for those dollars. We do an extraordinary amount of service our of buildings that were purchased, many of them built in the 1960, or sometimes earlier. And we are very proud of that care, and we would like to have an opportunity to demonstrate that.

As a closing comment, a lot of these issues as a health director I get to see on a daily basis. That gives me a unique prospective and a vested interest, not only as a nurse but also as a citizen of my nation and improving the health care of the people that I take care of every day. And you talk about lack of funding and the need for 100- percent contract support costs, and what I am going to tell you is with the dollars that we have received so far, by and large, our outcomes speak for themselves. We have figured our how to integrate a universal health care system Indian country. When the transition team looks at that process, universal health care, come to Indian country because I think we have models that the rest of the nation can replicate.

Thank you.

There will be ~~NO~~ yard sale during the April Membership Meeting.

The annual yard sale ~~will~~ take place during the September Membership Meeting.

LITTLE RIVER BAND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES TRIBAL SELF GOVERNANCE COMPACT NEGOTIATIONS

NEW COMPACT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2009

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and the United States Department of Health and Human Services entered into a Self-Governance compact agreement on February 1, 2009, with a multi-year funding agreement effective until December 31, 2011. Under the multi-year funding agreement, Little River Band will receive approximately \$1.4 million in federal funding annually to provide health related services to its citizens in the nine county service delivery areas.

Title V Self-Governance compacts are similar to Title I Self-Determination contracts as they affirm the unique government-to-government relationship that Tribes and the United States Government have established under Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution and successive federal Indian laws. Under Title V compacting, Tribes assume full responsibility for the administration of programs, services, functions and activities defined in the compact and the annual funding agreement; this reduces the reporting, monitoring and 'micro-management' involvement of the Federal government.

Self-Governance compacts create opportunities for Tribes to control their destiny through the direct assumption of funded programs. Agencies serve an ancillary role to the Tribe primarily in advocacy through the Office of Tribal Self-Governance and providers of technical assistance rather than that of day-to-day management oversight of service delivery. Control and ultimate accountability rests with the Tribal organization and its responsiveness to the priorities of the citizens they govern.

The Little River Band began the self-governance planning process under a grant from the Office of Self-Determination in 2002. During this process, current administrative systems of the Tribe and the Health Department were examined for effectiveness, capacity and compliance with internal controls. A key component to establishing a self-governance compact is the ability of the Tribal organization to demonstrate three years of fiscal responsibility evidenced by 'clean audits' under Single Audit Act criteria. Little River Band met this benchmark, and in November of 2008, notified the Department of Health and Human Services of its intent to negotiate a Self-Governance compact and funding agreement. It was after this notification that Lloyd Miller, attorney and self-governance expert with the law firm of Sonosky, Chambers, Miller and Munson, LLC met with Larry Romanelli, Tribal Ogema, Matthew Lesky, Legislative Attorney, Bill Willis, Executive Assistant to the Tribal Manager and Jessica Burger, Health Director to discuss the advantages of self-governance compacting and the capacity of Sonosky, Chambers to assist Little River Band in that process. The Ogema then directed the Health Director to work with Sonosky, Chambers to negotiate the compact and funding agreement on behalf of Little River Band with the Department of Health and Human Services. Myra Munson, partner with the firm, was instrumental in creating compact and funding agreement language that protects the sovereign interest of the Tribe, expands the service capacity to include

a broad scope of activity and establishes the authority of the Tribe to redesign or consolidate programs based upon the priorities of the Tribe. This is a major facet of change as the mandates of federal program administration may now be crafted and controlled to the meet the needs of the Tribal community, "in the best interest of the health and welfare of the Indian Community being served," so long as the "redesign or consolidation does not have the effect of denying eligibility for services to population groups otherwise eligible to be served under applicable Federal law pursuant to 25 USC section 458aaa-5(e)."

The compact negotiations were accomplished relatively quickly, with the Tribe and DHHS reaching compromise on some of the provisions such as inclusion of Traditional and Alternative Medicine in direct service, enhanced service language for community health and wellness, home based and family based services. "The compact was negotiated with an eye to the future and what the Tribe aspires to provide to its citizens," stated Jessica Burger, Health Director. "The Tribe looked at what we are doing now in comparison to our strategic plan and mission statement for health services, keeping in mind the language of the Tribe's constitutional preamble; 'As an exercise of our sovereign powers, in order to organize for our common good, to govern ourselves under our own laws, to maintain and foster tribal culture, provide for the welfare and prosperity of our people, and to protect our homeland.' We were able to craft a document that reinforces all of those priorities evidenced by the recitals at the beginning of the compact language to the PFSA's described in the multi-year funding agreement."

Little River Band first contract for funds under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance act shortly after Tribal Re-Affirmation was achieved under PL 103-324, September 21, 1994. The first agreement, under Title I of the ISDEA was in the amount of \$79,000.00 to be used for planning of health related services in the four county service areas of Manistee, Mason, Lake and Wexford counties for a negotiated service population for the funding base at 500 persons referred to as the user population. The agreement evolved in 1997 to include providing contract health services and some limited direct services, with expansion of services into Newaygo, Oceana, Muskegon, Kent and Ottawa counties, funded at approximately \$297,000.00 annually; the user population remained at 500, and the funding dedicated did not grow to meet the expansion of the service counties. In 2000, under the direction of Ogema Robert Guenthardt, Health Director Jessica Burger began to petition the DHHS for recognition of the user population

Little River Band was actually providing services to; approximately 1200 persons in nine counties. It was after this effort that Title I contract activity expanded to include permanent physician services, community nursing and increased CHS subsidy over \$980,000.00 on an annual basis. In 2002, the next logical step was to explore the possibility of compacting under the ISDEA via Title V agreement. As planning progressed under a Title V planning grant, the effort was nearly derailed as the Tribe was placed on sanction by the Bureau of Indian Affairs related to not having audits filed under the Single Audit Act, and numerous material findings. Since that time, the Tribe underwent a substantial effort to create policy and procedural processes to create greater fiscal management controls and submit the annual audits in a timely manner. In 2007, the Tribe met the criteria pertaining to audit compliance, and the Health Director re-visited the Self-Governance plan. With the support of the Ogema and Tribal Council, the decision to petition to open negotiations was made, and a letter to notify the DHHS of Little River Bands intent to negotiate a Self-Governance compact was forwarded in November 2008. After the secured involvement of Sonosky, Chambers and Myra Munson, negotiations were aggressively pursued. The Tribal Council passed a resolution authorizing the Ogema to negotiate a compact with DHHS, with the final negotiation taking place on January 23, 2009. The agreement was signed by Larry Romanelli, Tribal Ogema on January 27, 2009; final documents bearing the Ogema's signature were delivered to Mr. Victor Mosser on January 29, 2009. Correspondence regarding the receipt of the final documents was received from Mr. Christopher Manydeeds, of the Office of Tribal Self-Governance, Department of Health and Human Services on January 30, 2009. With the final compact language and multi-year funding agreement in place, Little River Band joins Tribes such as the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and Sault Ste. Marie Band of Chippewa Indians and another 260 Tribes nationally, in the ranks of Self-Governance compactors. Self-Governance status has been attained by approximately 40% of all federally recognized Tribal entities.

*Submitted by:
Jessica Burger, Tribal Health Director*

WISDOM

By
Patrick D. Wilson

The conventional meaning of the word, "Wisdom is knowledge, understanding, experience, discretion and intuitive understanding, along with a capacity to apply these qualities well toward finding solutions to problems." Wisdom can also be "defined as the coordination of "knowledge and experience" and "its deliberate use to improve well being." It can be said that a person with wisdom can get to the bottom of an issue or problem; they have a clear understanding of who they are, other seek them out for advice, and their action do not conflict with their "ethical beliefs." My understanding of "Wisdom is similar to the above statement. Wisdom comes from life experiences and being able to use what you have learned over the years and when asked to help others, it is done in a good way. Wisdom is a deep understanding of life's "trials and tribulations." A person who is said to have "wisdom" passes this knowledge to the next generation to help them in their journey through life.

I have also included one other "Traditional Practitioner's" answers to the question, "What does Wisdom mean to you?" Jerry Ramsey wrote back this thoughtful insight; "When I think of Wisdom I reflect back to my Grandmother and as an Elder. But I must say that the identification of "Elder" is not simply a matter of chronological age, but a function of the Respect accorded to individuals in each Native American community who exemplify the values and life ways of our culture and who possess the Wisdom and Willingness to pass their knowledge on to future generations. Our Elders continually remind us that we are all spiritually connected to the earth and earth creatures. Our Elders are Wisdom Keepers who carry the Ancient Knowledge and Traditional Life Ways of their Peoples. For Century's they carried Oral History, Healing Wisdom, spiritual Practices, accumulated knowledge and experience of our Natural Environment, stewardship of Our Sacred Lands, and our Sacred Ceremonies. Our Elders have much to Teach Modern Cultures about Compassion, Love and Living in Balanced Sustainable Harmony with each Other and Our Precious Mother Earth.

In peacemaking we use wisdom in the form of personal experiences and stories. In this way we can show the participants that there are answers to their problems, issues, or concerns. Many times the participants cannot see the solution, because they are too close to the problem. That is when a Peacemaker can use an objective personal experience or story to help the participant/s grasp the different concepts in solving their problem. This is done not to give the answer to the participant but to let the participant understand in their own mind what the answer is for them.

Commodities

Food Distribution Program (FDPIR) was created by congress in 1977 Food Stamp Act as an alternative to the Food Stamp Program for Indian Reservations. The program offers commodity to low income Native American households. No household may participate in both the Commodity Food Program and Food Stamp Program, but eligible households can switch from one program to the other at the end of each month. Eligibility and participation for FDPIR are based on application and certification requiring tribal status, income and resources qualification. In determining who is eligible for the program. We are federally funded by the USDA and they set the regulations and guidelines for the Commodity Program.

USDA Income
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
Net Monthly Income Standards
October 1, 2008 & October 1, 2009

1.	\$ 1,011.00
2.	\$ 1,311.00
3.	\$ 1,611.00
4.	\$ 1,914.00
5.	\$ 2,239.00
6.	\$ 2,564.00
7.	\$ 2,864.00
8.	\$ 3,164.00

For each additional member add \$ 300.00

Commodity Department serves 13 counties: Benzie, Grand Traverse, Lake Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, Wexford.

Office hours are 8:00 A.M – 5:00 P.M
Lunch hour is 12:00 1:00

Yvonne Theodore, George Lawrence, Laurie Jackson
1-888-723-8288 ask for Commodity Program
Office # are 231-398-6715 or 231-398-6716

Tribal ID's okayed for Personal Identification

January 20, 2009, the Enrollment Director Diane Lonn received notification from the Michigan Department of State that the new LRBOI tribal identity cards (Tribal ID's) meet the qualifications and requirements to be used as identity documents for border crossings and for boarding airplanes. They can also be used as a second piece of identification information when getting a Driver's License or other personal identification.

The tribe began issuing the new cards in 2008. The cards show an expiration date and a picture, both of which are required under the new requirements established by the Department of Homeland Security.

Please contact the Enrollment Department if you have questions about obtaining one of the new Tribal ID cards.

Positive Indian Parenting: Honoring Our Children By Honoring our Traditions

LRBOI Family Services Department will be offering Positive Indian Parenting class March 10 through April 28 from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Muskegon Tribal building.

We welcome single mothers and fathers, two-parent families, grandparents, and perspective parents, step-parents, foster parents, or anyone who is facing the challenge of raising children.

The program will be offered in Manistee in this summer. We are hopeful that the courts, local schools, and tribal departments will use the program as a culturally appropriate alternative when referring parents to parenting training.

The eight-week curriculum was developed by the National Indian Child Welfare Association to provide a brief, practical, and culturally specific training program for Indian parents. The goals of the program are to help Indian parents: 1) explore the values and attitudes expressed in traditional Indian child-rearing practices, and to apply them to modern parenting skills and 2) develop positive attitudes, values and skills that have roots in their cultural heritage.

The curriculum includes the oral tradition, story-telling, the spiritual nature of child-rearing, and the role of extended family. It teaches that valuable lessons can be learned from the old ways, and that parents can find strength in cultural traditions.

Included in the eight sessions are:

- Traditional Parenting – history, cultural strengths
- Lessons of the Storyteller – communication, values, observation
- Lessons of the Cradleboard – bonding nurturing, development
- Harmony in Childrearing – balance, family structure, self-control, prevention
- Traditional Behavioral Management – guidelines, limits, discipline
- Lessons of Mother Nature – living skills, social skills
- Praise in Traditional Parenting – positive reinforcement skills
- Choices in Parenting – setting goals, problems of parenting, what kind of parent to be

The class incorporates traditional components such as smudging and prayer, snacks, the talking feather, and giveaways. Guest speakers may be invited to share storytelling, singing, cradleboard demonstration, or sharing tribal ceremonies and customs.

Every new generation faces the difficult job of raising its children. We must nurture and protect our children, help them discover who they are, and teach them the skills to survive as adults. Positive Indian Parenting offers an opportunity for parents to explore the traditional ways that may be useful in today's challenging world.

For more information contact Kathy Lagerquist (398-6705) or Shelly Kequam (398-6707) at LRBOI Family Services Department.

*Celebrating
Life*

20th Annual
Central Michigan University
Contest Powwow
Hand Drum Contest

March 21 and 22, 2009
Rose Arena, Mount Pleasant

Grand Entries
Saturday – 1 and 7 p.m.
Sunday – Noon
Doors open to public at 11 a.m.

Head Veteran – George Martin
Master of Ceremonies – Edmund
Tate-Navaquia
Host Drum – TBA
Head Male Dancer – Daniel Isaac
Head Female Dancer – Kit Landry

Admission Prices
General public \$7
Elders and children \$5
Weekend pass \$12
CMU students and SCIT tribal members
FREE with I.D.

Prizes
Drum Contest:
1st Place: \$3,000
2nd Place: \$2,000
3rd Place: \$1,000
(non placing drums receive \$200)

Adult Dance Contest:
1st Place: \$400
2nd Place: \$300
3rd Place: \$200

Hand Drum Contest:
1st Place: \$500
2nd Place: \$300
3rd Place: \$100

For more information
Native American Programs
(989) 774-2508
www.cmich.edu/powwow



Sponsored by: Native American Programs • N.A.I.S.O. • MPADG • Three Fires A.I.S.E.S.



Patty Iron Cloud National Native
American Youth Initiative

Youth Initiative in June.



The Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) is accepting applications for the 12th annual Patty Iron Cloud National Native American Youth Initiative (NNAYI), June 20 - 28 in Washington, D.C. Sixty Native American high school students, ages 16 - 18, who have an interest in the health professions and biomedical research will be awarded scholarships to attend the NNAYI program.

The NNAYI Program is designed to educate high school students about the various careers in the health professions and biomedical research. AAIP

member physicians and health professionals serve as role models for the students and offer insights into their respective health fields, including medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, public and allied health, biomedical research, health policy development and more. Students also learn about opportunities for mentoring and shadowing with AAIP member physicians.

Application deadline for high school students is April 17 and for counselor application is March 6. For more information, call Lucinda Myers at (202) 946-7072 or e-mail lmyers@aaip.org. Applications may be downloaded at www.aaip.org/programs/nnayi/nnayi.htm.

Obama selects American Indian for high-profile job

President Barack Obama has appointed an American Indian to a high-profile intergovernmental job to be the “eyes and ears” of Indian Country.

The Obama administration named three people to posts in its intergovernmental affairs office on Friday, including Jodi Archambault Gillette, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. She will serve as a deputy associate director in an office that functions as a mediator between the administration and state, tribal and local governments.

“This is the first time we’ve had an American Indian that close to the White House, dealing with intergovernmental affairs,” said David Gipp, president of the United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, N.D., where Gillette previously served as director of the Native American Training Institute.

Former President Bill Clinton was the last president to appoint someone to oversee tribal issues in the intergovernmental affairs office. However, Gillette will be the first

Indian to hold the job.

Obama also named Nicholas Rathod and Michael Blake as intergovernmental deputy associate directors.

“These individuals bring diverse experiences and a deep passion for public service to my administration,” Obama said in a prepared statement.

Gillette began working for the Obama administration last week. Leading up to the Nov. 2 general election, she served as the North Dakota First American Vote director for the Obama campaign.

She received her undergraduate degree in government and Native American Studies from Dartmouth College in 1991. She earned a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Minnesota.

Many also know her as a champion women’s traditional dancer, Gipp said.

He expects education, housing, transportation and law enforcement issues to rank among the priority concerns for tribes that seek policy changes through the intergovernmental office.

“Jodi Gillette will be able to really bring focus to these issues so they can be discussed at the highest levels of government,” said Gipp. “She’s there to examine policy and put it together the way the president wants to do things. In terms of the president, she will be the eyes and the ears and analyze that policy, refine that policy and make it more effective for Indian people and tribal governments.”

“She will be very helpful in coordinating tribal government, tribal leaders and Indian affairs across the board and all the federal agencies where there will be issues affecting tribes and Indian people,” said Gipp. “She’ll be able to reach across from one agency to the next. We look forward to her coordinating meetings at the highest levels of government with some of the secretaries and also the president.”

(Published with permission by JODI RAVE of the Missoulian)

Cutting Ice at LRCCR

Everyone has enjoyed the Ice Sculptures which are part of the Little River Casino Resort Food and Beverage presentation at buffets, banquets and special events. These ‘works of art’ are created by our own Casino employees and the **Currents** had the opportunity to see the work in progress while waiting for a photo shoot by the Ludington Daily News.

Stephanie Fitch is the Lead Executive Sous Chef and she supervises the creation of these icy flights of fancy along with the Lead Cook, Bobby Elkins.

The day of the photo shoot, carvers Tony McIntosh and John Oakley were busy in the warehouse with grinders, chisels and other sculpture tools.

Having these beautiful sculptures done by the staff saves approximately \$250 in costs for each one. Plus, they add so much to the successful events at Little River! Our congratulations and thanks to the staff for their artistic endeavors.

Article & Photos by Currents Staff





On Wednesday, February 4th, and Thursday, February 5th, I attended the Inter-Tribal Sovereign Governance Training put on by MSU Extension Services and hosted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa Indians at the Turtle Creek Casino.

Also in attendance were Loretta Beccaria, LRBOI Tribal Councilor, Robert Whiteloon, LRBOI Tribal Councilor, Robert Memberto, Director of Commerce for LRBOI, and Glenn Zaring, Director of Public Affairs for LRBOI.

I believe 11 of the 12 tribes of Michigan were represented at the two day training. I enjoyed the opportunity to interact with other tribal leaders both in and outside of the training regarding governance and other issues concerning all tribes.

The training was put together by a group of tribal and non-tribal individuals with extensive knowledge of tribes. One of the key pieces of information I came away with was the importance of our Tribal Constitution and the need to abide by its directions; it truly is the most important document we have to govern our Tribe. It is my understanding that the training was considered a success and will be repeated next year. I believe it was well worth the time and money invested. I want to thank those people with the vision and dedication for putting this on. Miigwetch to all.

Larry Romanelli, Ogema

Tribal Governance Training Conference February 4 -5, 2009 was attended by 12 tribes in Michigan.

Excellent Training that included History of Anishinabek Tribes in Michigan, Re-emergence of Tribal Governance, Legal/Public Policy, Council Roles/Responsibilities, Government to Government Relations, Fiscal Management, Conducting effective meetings, Communication, Conflict Resolution and Decision Making.

Well rounded fast paced sessions that started early and moved at a steady pace through dinner. Speakers stayed on track and allowed time for questions and answers.

The ability to participate in training of this nature with other local tribes is priceless. We discussed constitutional issues, along with budget problems, importance of reading a balance sheet, meeting rules, importance of workshops, tribal histories, how to deal with different personalities, and ethics of elected officials, just to name a few.

It was not surprising to find out that most tribes face the same problems, with open discussions held to help work through the easy ones, and side bars on very specific issues like the State Tax Ordinance.

This should be a mandatory training for all elected officials, as it gives firsthand knowledge of other Tribal Governments structure and their constitution, what is working or not working, and in some instances why.

Loretta Beccaria

Important Notice for College Students!

For the 2009 Calendar year there will be NO summer scholarships available. You will be able to apply for and receive a scholarship award for only two (2) semesters during 2009. The Book Stipend is still available for summer. You will be able to apply for and receive a book stipend award for three (3) semesters during 2009. Obviously not all colleges follow the same schedule. To clarify, the fall semester generally runs from late August or early September until December- we refer to that semester as "fall", although your school might refer to it as "autumn". The semester that generally runs from January to late May or early June is referred to variously as "winter" semester or "spring" semester- we refer to that semester as "winter". Any other semesters are considered summer for LRBOI purposes. Schools may refer to them as Summer I and Summer II, Summer, or Spring and Summer. Generally those are semesters or terms which fall somewhere in May through August, and usually, though not always, are shorter semesters.

If your school is on a quarter system, you have 4 quarters generally of equal length. In this case, you can receive a scholarship for fall semester and winter semester only. There will be no scholarship for spring or summer semester. However, the College Book Stipend is still available for summer. If your school is on a quarter schedule or if your spring and summer semesters are short semesters, you will need to combine the two. For example- if you are taking 6 credits in the spring semester and 6 credits in the summer semester, you will apply for a single book stipend for 12 credits. Schedules for both semesters/quarters must be included.

In addition to the cut of summer scholarship funding, the College Laptop program has been cut for 2009 as well. It is hoped that these are temporary cuts and that, provided the economy improves, they will be back in the budget come 2010.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact Yvonne Parsons in the Education Department 231-398-6735.

2009 Goonginebig Tournament winners



Age Group

1-4

1st. place Cecelia Orcult
2nd. place Ben Ceplina
3rd. place Kateri Ceplina

5-7

1st. place Jasmine Cabarrubia
2nd. place Jessie James Cabarrubia
3rd. place Jacquelyn Cabarrubia

8-10

1st. place Lilli Parker
2nd. place Jalissa Cabarrubia
3rd. place Jacob Cabarrubia

11-13

1st. place Geegoon Kay
2nd. place Jasclyn Cabarrubia

14-17

1st. place Patrick G. Wilson
2nd. place Jacob Berensten
3rd. place A. Sunflower Wilson

18-54

Men

1st. place Todd Parker
2nd. place Brian Gibson
3rd. place Patrick D. Wilson

Women

1st. place Cindi McIlrath-Parker
2nd. place Elizabeth Gunderson
3rd. place Kathy Gibson

55 and up

1st. place Jan Wediman
2nd. place Stella Gibson
3rd. place James Gibson

Tribal Youth and descendants who attended summer camp were reunited for a day of fun on Jan. 26, 2009 at the Community Center. Holly Davis Diabetes Educator /Community Health Nurse and the Community Health Representatives provided information on exercise for the winter months including Maajiidaa exercise DVD, discussed nutrition and played indoor and outdoor games. The children enjoyed using the snow snakes they made at summer camp. The benefits of walking were discussed and each child was given a pedometer to log their steps. They are participating in a walking challenge that will promote better health and have incentives for participation.



Cabin Fever!



Cabin Fever!



Cabin Fever!



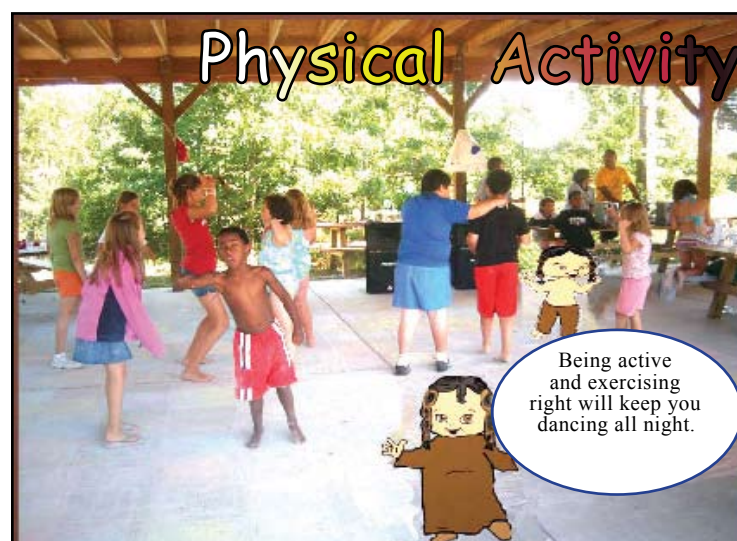
Diabetic Health

Physical activity and regular exercise are important to keep your body healthy. Our ancestors worked hard to hunt and gather food as well as to keep shelter and make clothes. We are now challenged to stay fit and be active.

Research has shown that people need 30 minutes of exercise per day for basic health; 60 minutes per day to avoid weight gain; 60-90 minutes per day to sustain weight loss.

Exercise is planned and structured and is done to maintain or improve physical fitness. Benefits include:

- Builds muscles
- Reduces the risk of developing diabetes



Being active and exercising right will keep you dancing all night.

- Reduces the risk of heart, kidney and eye diseases that can result from diabetes
- Helps control weight

Physical activity does not have to be strenuous or difficult to be beneficial. Walking, doing yard work or housework, swimming and riding a bike are just a few examples of physical activity. The important thing is to get started and keep at it.

With the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, we have produced two exercise DVD's. The first is a sitting routine designed to tone and strengthen muscles, as well as improve joint flexibility. The second is a moderate impact aerobic routine. Contact the Health Clinic if you are interested in receiving a free copy of the DVD.

"In our story of Creation, we talk about each one of us having our own path to travel, and our own gift to give and to share. You see, what we say is that the Creator gave us all special gifts; each one of us is special. And each one of us is a special gift to each other because we've got something to share."

--John Peters (Slow Turtle), WAMPANOAG

We are all equally special. We need to focus on what is right for ourselves. As we focus on what is right for ourselves, we will start to see our special gifts. Then we can see how to share our special gifts with others. If we focus on what's wrong with ourselves, we will not be able to see our gifts. Then we will think we have nothing to give others and we become selfish and withdrawn. The more we focus on our good, the more we see the good in others. The more we see the good in others, the more we see the gifts they have to share. What you sees is what you gets!

My Creator, today, let me use the gifts You have given me. Let me use them wisely.

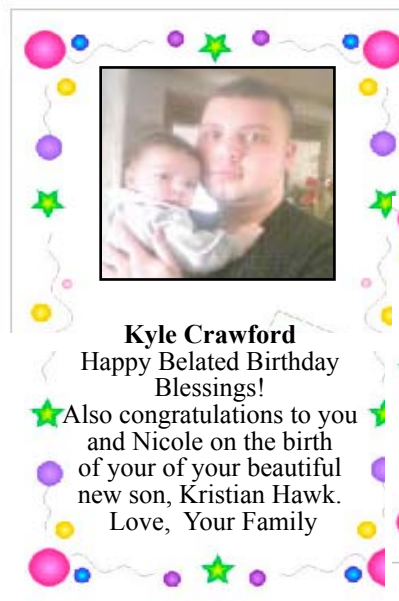


Congratulations!

Congratulations Taylor Sherman for making the honor roll. We are very proud of you!
Taylor lives in Bowie, Maryland and attends Whitehall Elementary School in Prince George County.
Love,
Your Nana, mom and dad, and aunties and uncles.



Kristian Hawk Crawford
Welcome to our family baby Hawk!
Hugs & Kisses,
Your Family



Kyle Crawford
Happy Belated Birthday Blessings!

Also congratulations to you and Nicole on the birth of your of your beautiful new son, Kristian Hawk.
Love, Your Family

Love
Mom, brother Jerry
and your sisters
Peggy, Nancy, & Janie

Happy Birthday
Donna
March, 18



Happy Birthday,
February 20th to Frank
Rhodes in Charlevoix
from Brother Bob.



**HAPPY 65th BIRTHDAY
ROBERT RUSS!! We
love you very much!**

**From, Your family:
Linda, Bobby, Tina and
Christopher Russ**

Happy Birthday Susan!



Wishing you a beautiful year. We Love You!
Your Family

Tom McCauley elk hunt



Elk shot on December 9, 2008.
Shot in Vienna, Michigan
Size 5 by 4 and weight 640 lbs.



Friends of Sherri Greenlund
Contact: Nicole Thurston
(906)284-0103
P.O. Box 308
Caspian, MI 49915



Dear Friends:

In our lifetime we have small opportunities to help our friends, neighbors, and family members. It is amazing that in this day and age, cancer is still such a large disease and affects so many people each year. That is why we have decided to do something about it. We are hosting a benefit for Sherri Greenlund of Iron River. Many people know her as the compassionate, friendly waitress from Main Street Café.

Sherri has been diagnosed with Stage 2 cancer. She is currently receiving treatment in Marshfield. She is receiving blood transfusions, chemotherapy PLUS radiation. She exemplifies courage that inspires many of us. She currently has no insurance.

We need the community's participation to help her in the battle against cancer. Sometimes, the hardest thing for them to do is to maintain their treatments because they do not have money for their relocation or for the demands of their treatments. We aim to raise funds to support her suffering from cancer and needing resources to continue with her treatment. As the fight against cancer continues to affect millions we hope you will be able to join us and Help us to raise money for her and her family while she undergoes treatment for cancer and help her overcome the daunting obstacles that may occur.

The Benefit will be held:

When - Saturday February 21st 6:00p.m.

Where - Randy's Hole in the Wall Caspian Michigan.

There will be 50/50 raffles, drawings for great items and door prizes.

We sincerely appreciate your support.

Contributions can be made to:

Sherri Greenlund Fund

P.O. Box 308

Caspian, MI 49915

Help fight and hopefully, one day, end this disease completely.

Sherri's address:
Sherri Greenlund
Cancer Hope Lodge
611 West Doege Street
Room 201



Happy 9th Anniversary!

Jessica and Joseph Sherman



Jessica attends Prince George Community College and Joe is a lieutenant with the US Navy and is an instructor for Seamanship and Navigation at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. They reside in Bowie, Maryland.

Love,
Your Family

Anishnaabek Healing Circle Opens Confidential, Toll-Free Call In Access Center

There is a new program to increase your chances for success in recovering from substance abuse and other addictions. Even if you have struggled for years, there is new hope for recovery with the Anishnaabek Healing Circle "Access to Recovery" (ATR) program and its new, confidential toll-free Call In Access Center, which you can reach at **1-866-945-7332**.

The Anishnaabek Healing Circle is a healing circle of friends, community members and substance abuse professionals who will walk with you on a journey to wellness. If you or a loved one in your family is struggling with drugs or alcohol, then you can get the help you need to break the cycle of addiction.

With the Anishnaabek Healing Circle, you have more choices than ever before to design a recovery program that is just right for YOU. You receive personalized vouchers for the clinical treatment and recovery support services you want. The program is confidential, and it's free.

Recovery can include mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual support, based on your individual needs. Maybe you think counseling will help you. Perhaps working with a traditional healer would be most helpful. All these choices, and many more, are now yours to make. You decide on the services you want. You choose the providers you want. You decide what is best for you. And you can walk the journey to wellness confidentially.

The Anishnaabek Healing Circle is a gift from the Creator to the Three Fires People. The gift is now. With help from a federal Access to Recovery grant, for which the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan successfully competed with twelve federally recognized tribes, we have a three-year period of time to do something about the disease of addiction, one person at a time.

We have extra financial and human resources available through this grant to make a difference, starting with YOU. Maybe now is your time to move on to a happier life. You can do it!

Who is eligible?

All the enrolled members of the twelve collaborating tribes in Michigan (including ours) and other Native Americans residing in the tribes' service areas are eligible for the Anishnaabek Healing Circle. Non-native family members are also eligible. There is no charge to eligible clients.

How do I get started on the healing path?

There is no "wrong door" for entry into the Anishnaabek Healing Circle. You may refer yourself or be referred through a tribal program, other network providers and other sources. The easiest way to get started is to just pick up the phone and call the new, confidential toll-free Call In

Access Center at **1-866-945-7332**. You may also contact your local tribal substance abuse program directly. All Michigan tribal substance abuse programs are ATR Access and Care Coordination Centers. Regardless of how you enter the program, you are not expected to enter the Anishnaabek Healing Circle alone. You will be assigned a Care Coordinator who will stay with you throughout your journey.

The Details

First, the Call In Center or your local Access and Care Coordination Center will determine your eligibility by performing a brief screening. If the screening shows a need for clinical treatment and/or recovery support services, you will be registered for the program and referred to a certified addictions counselor to receive a full clinical assessment. If you are only seeking recovery support services you will also receive a brief screening and be referred to an ATR authorized recovery support provider. Based on the level of care you need, you will receive a service voucher and a list of service providers from which to choose. You will also be assigned a Care Coordinator who advocates for you and helps you navigate the system.

You select and make an appointment with the provider(s) of your choice. You may work with several different providers during your time in the program, depending on circumstances and as your needs change. You make an appointment with the provider and receive services.

It's as simple as that. You choose the services you think will be most helpful in your recovery, and you choose the providers you want.

Some Interesting Facts

The ATR grant is for a little over \$11.5 million over three years. The 12 tribes committed to this project include more than 55,000 enrolled

members living on or near reservations in 51 of Michigan's 83 counties. The target is to help 5221 people during the three-year period. So far, over 1000 people have joined the Anishnaabek Healing Circle and more are choosing to seek a happier life everyday. We have providers in the system who are specifically trained to help people with methamphetamine, so if methamphetamine is affecting you or a loved one, please don't hesitate to join the Anishnaabek Healing Circle. Call the new, confidential toll-free Call In Access Center, at **1-866-945-7332**.

The Warriors Society is gathering photographs of members to be used when their office opens.

Please send photos of our Warriors either in uniform or in civilian dress to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Warriors Society, 375 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660.

Elder's Breakfast

Be-Da-Bin Behavioral Health Prevention program is unable to continue the monthly Elder Breakfast program Until Further Notice. Funds were discontinued in this years program budget for this activity.

We apologize for not being able to continue the program and any inconvenience.

**Any Questions Call:
Julie Wolfe 1-888-382-8299 ext 6632**

Tribal Artist Wanted



Would you like to be part of an art exhibit at the Ramsdell Theatre

For more information on how you can be part of this unique opportunity you can contact

Patrick D. Wilson at

(231) 398-2239

Email: pwilson@lrboi.com

Currents

You can find this and many other issues at lrboi.com



Mndoo-Gjizis (Spirit Moon)
March 2009 Vol. 6 Issue 3

Megwa Ezhiweback New Year's Jiingtamok



The gymnasium at Manistee High School was a beautiful place New Years Eve as Be-Da-Bin Behavioral Health held their 2nd Annual New Years Jiingtamok... *A Celebration of Life in Sobriety!*

As you first walked into the quad at the school, you were greeted by the smells of some good food and the sounds of families bringing in the new year. At the sign-in table you received your Happy New Year necklace and a party hat. After the feast, everyone headed into the gym where the actual Jiingtamok would take place.

From the first sounds of the drums (Host drum, *Southern Straight*, co-host drum *Northern Bear*) warming up, you knew you were in for a great celebration of welcoming in 2009. Then prior to Grand Entry, Master of Ceremonies Joe Martin started calling for the dancers to get ready. As the regalia was donned, dancers of all ages started lining up to smudge before entering the dance

circle, smudge was offered by Jonnie "Jay" Sam, the Arena Director.

The sound of the drums echoed back and forth through the gymnasium and through the hearts of everyone present. As the colors were presented by Head Veteran Frank Pearo, Bill Memberto - LRBOI, Alice Wilson - LRBOI, Glenn Butchmiller- GTB, Bob Sharlo- LCO-OJEBEWA, Al Pedwaydon, GTB, Terry Rose - LRBOI and Dan Bissell LRBOI carried Killed in Action Eagle Staff.

Invocation in the language was given by our very own Terri Raczowski from the Tribal Historical Preservation Department. *Moccasin Sound* sang an honor song for our own LRBOI Jr. Princess Hannah Sandel.

We had a great line up of Head Dancers ~ Kci miigwech ~ Head Male Dancer: Marty Wabindato Head Female Dancer: Teresa Johnson Jr. Head Male Dancer: Andre Neebnagezhick Jr. Head Female Dancer: Swan Lewis.

After much dancing and many smiles, we were close to welcoming in 2009. Just before midnight we all entered the dance circle for the last dance of 2008. Just before the giveaway MC Joe Martin offered a prayer in honor of the New Year. Miigwech to Tribal Historical Preservation Department for the giveaway gifts. It was truly a celebration to remember.

Lastly, a kci-miigwech to the volunteers: Kathy Sam, David Roskoski, Kevin Streeter, Kathy Gibson, Brian Gibson, Joselyn Cabarrubia, and Jalissa Cabarrubia.

"Editors' note. This is a reprint of the original article that appeared in February with updates on participants supplied by Be Da Bin."

KICK BUTTS IN 2009 THEY PUT WHAT IN A CIGARETTE?!

Wenesh pii: March 25, 2009
4:00 pm—5:00 pm

Aanii piish: Tribal Health Clinic

We are inviting all youth (11 to 17) to join us. There's a lot more than tobacco in cigarette, come and learn so you can tell others about these ingredients and expose the truth.

Arsenic: used in rat poison and pesticides

Hydrogen Cyanide: used as a poison in gas chambers and chemical weapons

Sponsored by Be-Da-Bin Behavioral Health of The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Labor Unions Tribal Law

Over the course of the last two years, labor unions have become more active in Indian Country. They are focusing, in particular, on organizing employees at tribal gaming establishments. Tribes have begun to enact laws that regulate union activity to protect the interests of their tribal communities.

By Resolution of the Tribal Council, the Band's elected officials have pledged to remain neutral with respect to the pros and cons of union organizing so long as the Band's law is respected.

The Tribal Council, as the legislative branch, has enacted laws to govern labor unions and collective bargaining to project the health and welfare of the Band.

These laws, enacted under the Band's Fair Employment Practices Code, include procedures for unions to engage in election campaigns to determine whether certain classes of public employees may elect to be represented by a union; preserving the right of employees to decide whether or not to join a union; protecting employees against discrimination if they support a union; licensing requirements for unions doing business within the Band's jurisdiction; and various other requirements in the event that a union operates within the jurisdiction of the Band.

Last October, security guards at the Little River Casino Resort elected the United Steelworkers (USW) to represent them as a bargaining unit. Negotiations are now underway between Resort management and the USW with respect to a collective bargaining agreement in accordance with the Band's laws.

The Band is committed to enacting and implementing those laws that are necessary to provide employees within its jurisdiction with fair, safe, and productive working environments, while preserving tribal employment preferences and protecting the goals of tribal self-government and economic independence.



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An initiative of the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
to expand access to substance abuse treatment & recovery support services

1-866-945-7332

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www.athealingcircle.com